



Security Council

Fifty-eighth year

Provisional

4792nd meeting

Wednesday, 23 July 2003, 10 a.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Arias	(Spain)
<i>Members:</i>	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	Chile	Mr. Muñoz
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Colombia, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Uganda and Ukraine in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Giraldo (Colombia), Mr. Jenie (Indonesia), Mr. Gillerman (Israel), Mr. Spatafora (Italy), Mr. Haraguchi (Japan), Mr. Sharma (Nepal), Mr. Doig (Peru), Mr. Kim (Republic of Korea), Mr. Butagira (Uganda) and Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine), took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to document S/2003/710, which contains the text of a letter dated 15 July 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

I shall now give a briefing in my capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council.

It is a pleasure for me to address the Council for the first time in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), which I have headed since April. Before I outline the main points of the programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I should like to make some general comments in my

capacity not as Chairman of the Committee, but as the representative of Spain.

Spain's commitment to the fight against terrorism is well known to all Council members. It is a commitment involving not only my Government but also — what is more important — civil society. My country has suffered for more than 30 years from this plague, in which more than a thousand of my compatriots have been murdered. For us, it is essential that the fight against terrorism be one of the priorities in United Nations action. That objective must permeate the Organization's entire mandate. We have learned that the fight against terrorism will be long and that there are no shortcuts that will enable us to attain our goals easily or swiftly. Sometimes we hear voices that demand swift and drastic solutions, but we must not allow ourselves to be deceived by such siren songs.

We must continue along the lines of what we agreed on 23 January in resolution 1456 (2003), which stipulates in its annex that States must ensure that the measures they adopt to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, particularly with norms related to human rights, to refugees and to humanitarian law. We must be extremely careful in that regard. Legitimacy, law and reason are on our side, and we must not adopt any measure that runs the risk of putting us at odds with them.

Now I should like to speak in my capacity as Chairman of the CTC.

The Committee is one of the most important tools, with the greatest and most universal influence, on which the international community can rely in its fight against terrorism. The fact that resolution 1373 (2001) was adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which concerns action in case of threats against peace, gives it a power that is commensurate with the threat that we face. In the more than a year and a half since its inception, the CTC has been involved in an enormous scope of activity. Two figures are enough to demonstrate that: the first is that, in September 2001 — when the resolution was adopted — only two States of the international community were parties to the 12 conventions and protocols related to the fight against terrorism. By 30 June this year, there were already 37. For example, the International Convention for the Repression of Terrorist Acts Committed with Bombs has seen a 71

per cent increase in its ratification rate, and the 1999 International Convention for the Repression of the Financing of Terrorism has seen a 94 per cent increase. The second figure that I wish to touch upon is that, to date, a total of 385 reports have been received from States in response to letters sent by the Committee related to the measures contained in resolution 1373 (2001).

But, beyond statistics, the Committee has done important work in the field of technical assistance. It is interesting to recall that the Committee conducts its work on the basis of three principles: transparency, equal treatment and coordination. With regard to transparency, the Committee regularly holds informational meetings that are open to all Member States. We also have a web page on which we have been working for several months to improve and update; it will soon be available in a more user-friendly form. Equal treatment is demonstrated by, among other things, the regular contact we maintain with representatives of Member States and of international organizations. Coordination has been demonstrated in the tightening of the links between the Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). A joint press communiqué has been elaborated that compares both Committees to make it easier for the media to follow the respective activities of the Committees.

At another level, we wish to point out that, in the short term, the CTC faces two important challenges. The first is the paper that it must adopt in the field of technical assistance. One of the Committee's principal advantages is its universality, a result of its inclusion in the United Nations framework. That universality, in our judgment, should be used to help, to the greatest extent possible, those States that demonstrate genuine political will in the fight against terrorism, but at the same time have difficulties in implementing the measures contained in resolution 1373 (2001). To that end, the Committee is taking steps towards a serious strengthening of its work in that field.

We can now rely on two instruments — the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance and the Matrix of Assistance, which have been shown to be essential tools but have also begun to demonstrate certain limitations. They were adequate when the Committee functioned as a "switchboard", but we should now like to adopt a more proactive role. We believe the Committee should be

able to help States that request assistance in the process of implementing the resolution. The Committee must be able to ensure that the needs of those countries are truly met.

But, at the same time, the Committee must play an increasingly greater role in the promotion and coordination of available international assistance, using its broad experience to orient States and international donor organizations towards the priorities that the Committee is now beginning to be able to identify. It is not a matter of giving priority to one State over another, but rather, of having criteria available that will enable us to deal first with issues that we consider most urgent within each State.

The second challenge is that of tightening the links between the Committee and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. The first step was taken under the British presidency when, on 6 March, the first meeting with more than 60 such organizations was held here. After the meeting, a plan of action was adopted that we have been implementing and that has produced concrete results. I should also like to highlight the contacts that we have maintained with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Customs Organization, Interpol and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which the danger represented by terrorist groups having access to weapons of mass destruction or to dangerous material of a radioactive, chemical or biological nature were highlighted. In our judgment, the latter threat has not been given the attention it deserves, which is why we intend to remain seized of the matter. We must also mention the work that we are doing with the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, part of the Organization of American States, which will organize a meeting in Washington on 7 October directly related to the one already mentioned, held in March.

I should now like to refer briefly to the programme of work planned for April to July of this year. We are pleased to share with members that the great majority of objectives that it set forth were not only met, but sometimes even exceeded. For example, the Directory of contacts and their details have been improved. A first group of 17 international organizations relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) has been contacted. In addition, by having completed the review of 385 reports, we

have exceeded by 35 the reports objective established in the programme of work.

With regard to the programme of work for the months of July to September, I do not believe that I need to refer to it in detail, since all Council members have a copy of it available to them. However, I wish to highlight a number of points. Within the spirit of the Committee's cooperation with Member States, we have decided to undertake measures to help the 36 States that have fallen behind in submitting their reports so that they comply with their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001). We shall continue to work to promote the broadest possible participation in the 12 international conventions and protocols related to the fight against terrorism. And, as I said earlier, technical assistance and strengthening cooperation between the Committee and international organizations will be priorities for the coming months.

Finally, speaking again in my capacity as the representative of Spain, I would like to say that my country will spare no effort to ensure that the CTC achieves concrete and practical results that contribute to increasing the number of instruments available to the international community in its legitimate fight against terrorism.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I thank Council members for their understanding and cooperation.

Mr. Karev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this meeting, the purpose of which, as we see it, is not only to review progress to date but also to determine priorities, forms and methods for the subsequent work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Not only the quality of work of the Committee, but also the specific contribution of each State to building on anti-terrorist cooperation, will depend on our ability to do so in a timely and proper manner will

depend not only on the quality of the work of the Committee but on the specific contribution of each State to building on anti-terrorist cooperation. You, Mr. President, have successfully taken over the chairmanship of the CTC, and we believe that, under your leadership, the Committee will continue to work in an organized, effective and, most importantly, creative way. You are deserving of our highest appreciation.

Thanks to the efforts of members of the Council, CTC experts and Secretariat staff, and active cooperation on the part of the vast majority of countries, the Committee is successfully complying with the obligations set forth in resolution 1373 (2001) and has assumed its rightful place as the central coordinating body in the process of establishing a global anti-terrorist structure. This has been facilitated by the time-tested principles and methods of our joint work: openness, cooperation and impartiality.

It has become a useful tradition in our meetings to focus particular attention on the conceptual and practical aspects of developing the work of the CTC. We hope that this meeting will prove to be no exception in that respect. The search for fresh ideas and constructive solutions will continue on the basis of compliance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law and consideration of the legitimate interests of individual States and the entire international community. The intensive phasing-in of the second and third stages of the CTC's work, calling for identifying the effectiveness of the work done by national administrative institutions designed to suppress terrorist activity and to hand over terrorists and their accomplices to the justice system, will mean an increased workload for members, experts and Secretariat staff.

In this regard, I would like to make several observations. Compared with the harmonization and unification of legislation, which, in general, is proceeding successfully, we have at our disposal scarcely any standard anti-terrorist models that, when applied, would be equally effective in all countries. Looking for solutions in specific situations will require individual approaches. In circumstances where the CTC has no adequate financial or management resources in that respect, specific focus must be placed on stepping up the Committee's cooperation with profiling, regional and sectoral organizations. They have information and resources to facilitate the

implementation of various projects in specific countries.

Setting in motion all of this potential across the board will allow us not only to resolve specific challenges with maximum effectiveness and to avoid duplication in our work, but to take on the practical job of establishing a global and comprehensive system to counter terrorism.

Russia fully supports the efforts of the CTC to establish permanent working contacts with 17 international organizations, as well as the Committee's plans to increase the list of its partners. Particularly promising is the CTC's cooperation with the activities of the Group of Eight's counter-terrorism body, which was established to flesh out the existing multilateral anti-terrorist mechanisms and to provide support to the CTC in implementing resolution 1373 (2001).

We hope that, overall, the second meeting of the CTC with international organizations, which will be held on 7 October in Washington, will give further impetus to the strengthening of our joint work. Providing technical assistance to those States that require it must remain one of the key priorities of our anti-terrorist activities. We believe that one way to resolve this issue could be to establish, under United Nations auspices, an international fund to combat terrorism.

As we make the transition from stage B to stage C — to use the terminology of the CTC — the Committee must learn to work at variable speeds, taking into account existing differences in national anti-terrorist capabilities. Evening these out will require not only financial resources, but time. Those States that are more advanced, however, must not wait complacently for those lagging behind to catch up. They must be moving forward constantly under the leadership of the CTC, in prompt implementation of all the measures that are called for under resolution 1373 (2001).

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): The representative of Italy, who will speak later on behalf of the European Union, will remind the Council of the energetic action being taken by the Union and its member States to combat terrorism, and I would like in advance to associate myself fully with that statement. I would also like, however, to make a few comments in my national capacity.

First of all, my delegation is gratified by the continuing work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), and in particular of its experts, to whom I would like to pay a well-deserved tribute for their work in evaluating the national reports submitted by States in compliance with resolution 1373 (2001). The number of reports received has already been mentioned and, as you rightly said, Mr. President, the evaluation of these reports is impressive and unprecedented.

We must not, however, speak only in terms of quantity. The content of the evaluation letters must be more closely adjusted to the situation in a given country in terms of the measures taken in implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). For those States that have already enacted legislation or set up administrative structures to combat terrorism, the evaluation will apply to the effectiveness of the measures that they have adopted.

Secondly, France fully supports the importance attached by the CTC to the matter of cooperation with international and regional organizations with competence in the field of combating terrorism. It is, indeed, important — along the lines of the meeting that took place on 6 March — to intensify that cooperation by taking concrete measures that are better adapted to the competences and capacities of the relevant organizations and in keeping with the priorities established by the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the fact that the Committee has sent letters in this respect to some of those organizations. We hope in particular that the cooperation thereby established will enable our Committee and its experts to benefit from the evaluations that the organizations have already carried out or plan to carry out within their area of competence — both in material and geographical terms — in the field of combating terrorism.

The second meeting between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional and international organizations, which is to be held in Washington on 7 October under the aegis of the Organization of American States, will usefully enable us to pursue and broaden this interesting dialogue in the interest of an expanded and more effective fight against terrorism. We believe it is extremely important for there to be an initial assessment of the cooperation that has been initiated between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and international and regional organizations.

Thirdly, France would like to reiterate the essential nature of technical assistance to countries needing help in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). As the Chairman's report points out, efforts already made by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to facilitate technical assistance must be stepped up — in particular through the register of available sources and the matrix. My delegation therefore supports the idea of giving a more active role to the Committee's experts in this field. We will participate actively in the discussions on this matter in the Committee.

As the representative of the country that currently chairs the G-8, I would also like to say a few words about the establishment of the G-8's Counter-Terrorism Action Group. The Group, which was set up last June during the G-8 summit at Evian, met in Paris for the first time on 2 July. That meeting included the participation of representatives of the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Action Group is entrusted with evaluating the needs and priorities of States vis-à-vis technical assistance to combat terrorism and with improving coordination in the activities of its members in this field. The Action Group, which is designed to strengthen global capacity to combat terrorism, will hold its second meeting next October.

Finally, France is pleased that, based on recent country reports, the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee will inform the Security Council in his next report of the main difficulties encountered by States in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). Such information, which my Government called for in the Security Council several months ago, will be useful in enabling the Council to better evaluate the follow-up to resolution 1373 (2001) almost two years after its adoption.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): This meeting provides Member States with an opportunity once again to voice their views on the thorny issue of terrorism as a threat to international peace and security. I would like to take this opportunity to convey to the President, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the appreciation of my delegation for his presentation of the Committee's report and the eighth programme of work, of which we have taken note. I should also say once again how grateful our delegation is to the Chairman, the other members of the Committee and the

Committee's support staff for the quality and quantity of work carried out in the area of transparency.

The submission by all Member States of their initial reports is something we should take note of. This substantial work has been made possible thanks, among other things, to the ability and perseverance of the Committee, working through its subcommittees and experts. We must now give further thought to the reasons why some countries are late in submitting their reports, in order that we can come up with appropriate solutions.

We are pleased with the continued cooperation between the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations. We hope that the outcome of the follow-up meeting with the Organization of American States, which is to be held in Washington next October, will make it possible to strengthen that cooperation, which is essential to eradicating terrorism.

The issue of assistance is also a crucial element. Designing a register and matrix in this field is encouraging. However, we must pay more attention to this matter, which means greater involvement by the Committee to ensure better coordination.

In another area, my delegation would like to emphasize the need to strengthen legislation and national mechanisms and to ratify the various international instruments on terrorism. The welcome increase in countries acceding to those instruments should be followed up. For its part, my country very recently ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

My delegation is more convinced than ever that combating terrorism is a long-term challenge in which success will depend on our continued solidarity. We also note with interest the establishment of cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established by resolution 1267 (1999), which share many interests. We believe all United Nations terrorism policies should be implemented in a coordinated and consistent manner. In the same vein, it is essential that we harmonize the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, the Committee established by resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism.

Finally, I wish to emphasize the success achieved in the context of combating terrorism. That success uniquely illustrates the fact that the international community has the will to live up to its responsibilities. Guinea, which has always opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, will continue to make its contribution to this joint undertaking.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic welcomes the holding of this meeting. We would like to convey our gratitude to you personally, Mr. President, in your capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), for the great efforts you have made in the last three months. We fully agree with you that the people of your friendly country have faced terrorist attacks for many years and that they have fought terrorism. All of us should make use of the lessons to be learned from your struggle against terrorism. My delegation would also like to express its gratitude to the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, its experts, members and Secretariat staff for all their efforts to make the work of the Committee a success in the past.

The CTC was able to fully meet its responsibilities in the period under review. The Committee has worked tirelessly to make progress in enhancing the capacity of Member States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). That success is evidenced in the cooperation of Member States vis-à-vis the provisions of the resolution, and especially in the fact that the requisite reports have been provided to the Committee. Every State has now submitted its initial report; 154 States have submitted a second report; and 35 States have presented their third report. I am pleased that Syria is among the 35 countries that have submitted the third report within the time established. That is further demonstration of our seriousness in promoting the international community's efforts to combat terrorism.

The Committee has pursued an open dialogue with Member States in a framework of transparency and has given assistance to those countries that have expressed the need to enhance their capacity to combat terrorism. The Committee has had real interaction with regional and subregional organizations.

My delegation supports the programme of work for the next 90 days presented by the Chairman of the

Counter-Terrorism Committee. Syria has cooperated fully with the Committee and would like to reaffirm its willingness to continue to make every effort to carry out that programme of work in order to meet the needs of Member States.

My delegation commends the Secretariat's efforts in publishing a further page concerning the CTC on the Internet. I would like to stress that there should be complete equality among the six working languages on the Committee's web page.

The danger of international terrorism requires the concerted effort of the members of the international community. That cooperation should not be superficial or limited to a set period of time. We would like to affirm what you, Sir, said in your statement a few minutes ago. We would like to seriously examine the roots, reasons and causes of terrorism. We should diagnose the causes of terrorism in order to eradicate it.

In that context, it is important to define terrorism and to distinguish between it and the right of peoples to liberation, which is a right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. That right should be safeguarded by everyone. All measures should be taken to ensure that right.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): The adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1373 (2001) was a landmark in the global fight against terrorism. Through it, the international community took the clear stand that the fight against terrorism requires sustained, long-term and global action. The United Nations has a central role to play, and one upon which national efforts should be built, since States have the primary responsibility for adopting measures to fight terrorism and its financing — measures aimed at suppressing all active and passive support for terrorism. In so acting, States must comply fully with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 1373 (2001), which established a set of mandatory provisions for all States and which entrusted to the United Nations an effective leading role in this fundamental combat against one of the greatest threats to international peace and security today.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established by resolution 1373 (2001) as an instrument of the Security Council to promote implementation by Member States of all aspects of resolution 1373 (2001). Approaching two years of existence, the Committee has registered the remarkable achievement of securing

the cooperation of the entire United Nations membership, thus making, through its work, an important contribution to the global fight against terrorism. In fact, it is undeniable that, thanks to the activity of the CTC, the international community has an enlarged and more effective legal framework for fighting terrorism. It is also undeniable that, because of States' self-assessments through their reports to the CTC, there is a clearer picture of the existing legislation and machinery to prevent terrorism and of the legislative gap that remains to be filled. The creation and revision of legislation by a large number of States, in line with resolution 1373 (2001), has been, indeed, an important accomplishment of the CTC. There is now an urgent need to extend the CTC's assistance to a number of developing countries in order to make international legislation to combat terrorism more global and, especially, more effective.

The quarterly programme of work of the Committee for the current period provides an overview of adherence to resolution 1373 (2001). The fact that all States have submitted their first report and that a large number have submitted their second and third reports testifies to the universal commitment to the fight against terrorism. The great increase in the number of States that have adhered to the 12 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism is a clear demonstration of the important progress achieved so far.

The complexity of the tasks related to reporting by States will be greater with the stage B reports, which require that States assess police and intelligence structures to detect, monitor and apprehend terrorists, assess customs, immigration and border controls to prevent the movement of terrorists and assess controls preventing access to weapons by terrorists. With the reporting of stage B, the CTC reaches the very core of the fight against terrorism.

The work of the independent experts of the CTC has been instrumental to the achievements of the Committee. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for their commitment and their professionalism. Their contribution to the Committee has been a positive factor.

Almost 40 Member States are late in submitting their second and third round reports, and all of them are developing countries. That reality shows that it is

not an easy task for a large number of countries to comply fully with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). It is not due to lack of commitment or lack of recognition of the importance of the fight against terrorism. It is essentially due to a lack of capacity — national and regional or subregional — to meet the resolution's requirements. In fact, a large number of developing countries have enacted anti-terrorist legislation, but their scarce financial, technical and human resources impede the implementation of such a legislative framework. Moreover, those countries lack the capacity to deal adequately with border controls and security, the movement of criminals, the smuggling of illicit drugs, illegal firearms, precious materials and possible links with terrorists. We recognize the need for those countries approach international standards in order to meet the great challenges lying ahead. But to achieve that goal, we need substantial long-term assistance focused on national and regional capacity building in areas related to resolution 1373 (2001). Only through concerted efforts and international assistance will we be able to meet the reporting requirements of the CTC and to strengthen our capacity in the fight against terrorism.

We welcome the commitment by the Committee to provide technical assistance to countries in need and the more active approach mentioned in the programme of work of identifying assistance priorities and finding appropriate providers of assistance.

Before I end, let me make absolutely clear the fact that the Angolan Government condemns the methods and tactics employed by terrorists. The end will never justify the means used by terrorism.

However, I should like to call the attention of the Security Council to the root causes of terrorism. These root causes remain, among others, injustice, extreme poverty, and social and political exclusion. The fight against terrorism should also address its root causes if we are jointly to succeed.

Let me end now by commending you, Sir, for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which you, as its Chairman, have been guiding. The practical contribution of the independent experts has also been a very important factor, and I think that together we should be able to continue our action and increase our capacity to deal with this major scourge.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Angola for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to congratulate you for guiding our work in your dual capacity as President of the Council and as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

My country appreciates the useful introduction you gave us in your latter capacity as well as your presentation of the Committee's comprehensive 90-day programme of action.

The Permanent Representative of Peru will be speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, and I shall therefore confine myself to a few brief comments on behalf of my delegation.

I should like to highlight in particular the reference you made, Sir, to the principles of cooperation, transparency and equality that inspire and guide the work of the CTC. It is clear that the Committee is making concrete and effective efforts to apply these principles in every case — efforts that involve not only the Chairman but also delegations, experts and the Secretariat.

As has so often been said here in the Council, the international community as a whole is vulnerable to terrorism. Yesterday Spain was struck by terrorist acts, which we deeply condemn and deplore — not only out of solidarity as a brotherly country, but also because it is our political and ethical duty. Protection therefore cannot be merely unilateral. We must continue our efforts to build a common structure effectively to confront the scourge of terrorism and help all Member States to increase their capacity to prevent terrorism and respond to it.

Resolution 1373 (2001) set in motion an unprecedented type of cooperation effectively to confront this global threat. I believe that the Committee is at the core of a process of collaboration to which no country can fail to contribute. The new programme of work highlights the fact that what is important is to make progress in terms of concrete measures in order to increase the means available to, and capacities of, all States to combat terrorism.

We welcome also the growing degree of cooperation and the deepening of contacts between the CTC and international, regional and subregional

organizations following the special meeting on 6 March last. We welcome in particular the meeting that the CTC will hold in October with international, regional and subregional organizations at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) under the auspices of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. Chile, as a member State of the OAS, is very encouraged and gratified by this level of cooperation.

As regards the reports provided by States to the Committee, the rate of response is highly satisfactory. But going beyond mere figures, what is most satisfying is the ongoing relationship between the CTC and States, which enables them jointly to comply with resolution 1373 (2001) in resolving problems that arise.

The effectiveness of the Committee depends, in the final analysis, on the degree of compliance and on the support of all the States Members of the Organization and of the international organizations.

Finally, I should like, Sir, as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), publicly to say to you that I intend to continue to promote, through concrete measures, a greater interconnection between the two committees, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1455 (2003). I believe that I will soon be able to report on the fruitful inception of cooperation between these two committees, which, in the ultimate analysis, endeavour to prevent and, hopefully, to eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. King (United Kingdom): I should like to begin by complimenting you, Sir, on the early months of your chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). We are grateful for what you have done. We endorse the work programme that you have set out for the next 90 days and the principles that guide this. I will associate myself with the statement to be made later this morning by the Italian presidency of the European Union and would like to underline the very considerable efforts that the European Union is making in this field. I will therefore confine myself just to two general points and three more specific ones on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The first general point is that, in many ways, the challenge that the CTC faces is getting increasingly difficult. On the one hand the work is getting more technical and more complex, and, on the other,

although the shock remains, the memories of 11 September are inevitably fading.

Progress has been made, of course, since we adopted resolution 1373 (2001), but there is no doubt that the threat posed by terrorism remains. We must hope that we never confront another event similar to that of 11 September, but we cannot yet say that that possibility is excluded.

Terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction remains a key concern, and we welcome the fact that the CTC has met agencies involved in addressing weapons of mass destruction and that agreement was reached to include this as an issue in the outgoing letters from the CTC. But, and this is the end of my first point, across the board we think that the CTC is going to have to redouble its efforts to maintain momentum. The United Kingdom is ready to offer whatever support it can.

My second general point is the key challenge of keeping the CTC's work operational. It can be a success if, and only if, it makes a real difference on the ground. It is, of course, in all our interests that the CTC remain effective, because that will reduce the scope for atrocities.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that the CTC can be effective by supporting it and fully cooperating with it as it pursues increasingly substantive work.

I have three suggestions about the substantive work for the next period. In making these, I should like to echo others in praising the assistance that the independent experts have provided.

First, the CTC needs to build on its work on assistance. We think that we need to strengthen the expert team in this area. The experts are increasingly identifying areas in which States can benefit from or be able to access help. The CTC and its experts need to be proactive in discussing their conclusions with States concerned, including through direct contact with capitals, whether that is by telephone or by actual visits. They will help States to access the increasingly wide-ranging assistance programmes which are available. A priority in moving forward in this area is sorting out legislation, which needs to be in place before States can move on to other areas.

My second point — and it is quite closely related — relates to States that are falling behind on

implementation or on cooperation with the CTC, as requested in resolution 1456 (2003). There is a range of reasons for this, but we see a need for sharper analysis of these reasons and think that the experts must be prepared to advise the CTC and the Council where there are concerns. In our turn, we, the Council, need to be prepared to respond to these points from experts.

My last point is about the need to continue to deepen contacts with other organizations — a point that several other speakers have already touched on. We have established these contacts with those in other organizations who set the standards, but we hope that the CTC's experts will explore what more could be done to get regional organizations to address terrorism themselves. There was much interest expressed at the 6 March special meeting and we should be prepared to help those organizations for which this is a new agenda item to develop the expertise to take discussion forward. So we look forward to the October meeting.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank you, Sir, for having convened this meeting and for your briefing, in your capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), on the work of the Committee.

Under your leadership, the work of the CTC over the past three months has made further progress. The CTC has continued actively to review the progress reports submitted by various countries on their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and has begun its review of stage B implementation in certain countries. The CTC's counter-terrorism assistance has been carried out at a deeper level and, on the basis of the particular situations of various countries, the Committee has made relevant proposals in its draft letters. The CTC has continued to strengthen its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. Its Chairman has sent letters to 17 international and regional organizations, in which he has indicated the inter-State areas for cooperation.

We highly appreciate the leadership of Ambassador Arias and the worthy efforts of his colleagues. At the same time, I wish to thank the Vice-Chairmen and the secretariat of the CTC for their work.

China supports the eighth 90-day programme of work of the CTC. I wish to make two comments on the Committee's future work.

First, it is important to further strengthen the work being done in counter-terrorism assistance. Practical measures should be taken to ensure that the assistance needs of the many developing countries are met. To that end, the CTC should not only continue to serve as a bridge between recipient and donor countries, but also closely follow the provision of such assistance so that the donors, as proposed by the CTC, can effectively provide assistance to countries in need. The eighth 90-day programme of work includes some very good ideas on counter-terrorism assistance to be provided by the CTC and I hope that action will be taken to turn those ideas into reality.

Secondly, it is imperative that we maintain the leadership of the CTC in the cause of international counter-terrorism. The CTC was established by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and its authority and legitimacy are irreplaceable. While we strive further to strengthen cooperation between the CTC and international, regional subregional organizations, we must ensure the Committee's core position and leadership. International, regional and subregional organizations should work in the spirit of Security Council resolutions fully to support and cooperate with the CTC.

China has always fully supported the global fight against terrorism and the work of the CTC. We will continue in the future to participate constructively and actively in the work of the CTC. I wish to affirm that the Chinese delegation intends to work closely with Ambassador Arias to ensure that the CTC can better serve the international cause of counter-terrorism and the interests of the myriad States Members of the United Nations.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria) (*spoke in French*): I should like to thank you, Sir, for having organized this meeting and, in your capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), for the programme of work that has been developed under your leadership and which Bulgaria supports wholeheartedly.

As an associate member of the European Union, my country endorses the statement to be made shortly by the Ambassador of Italy on behalf of the Italian presidency of the Union, an organization that is making a substantial contribution to the fight against terrorism around the world.

Terrorism continues to be an immediate and tangible threat to peace and security throughout the world and to all States without exception. That is why counter-terrorism remains a fundamental priority of Bulgaria's foreign policy. We continue to believe that the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) is a priority task for all Members of the United Nations.

I should like briefly to mention several major vectors for action that we feel should be undertaken by the Committee on the basis of firm and unchanging principles.

Any counter-terrorism activity, be it at the national, regional or subregional level, should always and fully conform to the norms of international law and respect the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law. Terrorists should not enjoy even a hint of justification for their reprehensible actions. One specific measure that would anchor our fight against terrorism in international law would include, as indicated in resolution 1373 (2001), the signature or ratification by States of the relevant United Nations conventions.

Paragraph 7 of the work programme of the CTC mentions the fact that, before 11 September 2001, fewer than 12 countries had signed all of the United Nations counter-terrorism conventions, while now, the number of those countries is more than 40. However, that figure should not be overly reassuring to us, because what counts is the implementation of those conventions. Moreover, permit me to mention the fact that Bulgaria not only has signed and ratified the 12 conventions in question, but also has harmonized its national legislation so as to permit their effective implementation.

International terrorism calls for coordinated action on the part of the international community. On that point, the work being done by the CTC — and, Mr. President, you have already contributed enormously to the Committee's effectiveness, for which I thank you — has enabled it to become the heart of the global anti-terrorist effort. It is the reference point of all organizations and States that are active in this area. From that perspective, it is very important that the relations that have developed over time between the CTC and other international organizations be deepened, developed and focused. As a number of previous speakers said, it is very often regional and subregional organizations that have the

resources and the means to implement counter-terrorism measures. As far as my country is concerned, Bulgaria is contributing actively to this fight in its subregion of South-Eastern Europe by cooperating with regional European organizations.

It is very important, in our view, that the competent international organizations include the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the fight against terrorism in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations. The universalization of international conventions and treaties in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament seems to us an essential point. Bulgaria unreservedly supported the changes that have been made to the founding documents of a great number of international export control regimes in order to lessen the danger posed by nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

The fight against terrorism is a challenge requiring long-term stamina. It seems to us that the mechanism that the CTC has represented since its creation has proved itself effective, but obviously — as Ambassador Thomson said a few moments ago — we will not really know how effective it is unless our action makes a difference on the ground. The technical assistance that has been provided — particularly by organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Monetary Fund and by donor countries — is of major importance. It is therefore disturbing that there still are some countries that, for objective reasons such as a lack of resources, have yet to undertake adequate measures to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 1373 (2001).

It is true that terrorism is a danger that changes its approach and its complexion and is sometimes very subtle. It is a multiform phenomenon that knows no borders and thus is difficult to deal with. However, Bulgaria is convinced that it can be vanquished. To do that requires the efforts of all States. The Committee that you have the honour to chair, Mr. President, is at the heart of that struggle.

Mr. Khalid (Pakistan): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your briefing on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). We also appreciate your efforts to maintain and improve the

performance of the CTC since assuming the chairmanship in April.

Pakistan shares the international concern about terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. Decades of exposure to terrorist acts — which have led to the loss of thousands of innocent lives, including those of our law-enforcement officials — as well as economic losses, have reinforced our conviction that this problem needs to be tackled resolutely. Accordingly, our counter-terrorism efforts continue apace.

Since its establishment about two years ago under resolution 1373 (2001), the CTC has made a significant contribution in the field of counter-terrorism. The dialogue it has maintained with Member States and its role in the facilitation of the provision of technical assistance to States have been helpful in enabling them to improve their domestic capacity to counter terrorism. However, the Committee needs to further intensify its efforts to encourage donors to extend technical assistance to States to enhance their capacities.

We appreciate the CTC's efforts to promote transparency and efficiency in its work. Its efforts to improve coordination with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) will further facilitate that process. Its initiatives to enhance coordination with regional and international organizations are also appreciable. In addition, we have noted the CTC's efforts to increase coordination with specialized agencies to counter the threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

The fight against terrorism is a long and multifaceted process. The objectives of shielding humanity from threats of terrorism and of strengthening international peace and security can be realized if our efforts address the problem of terrorism in its totality. It is time we move away from mere symptomatic treatment to more basic and structural issues. Issues of socio-economic justice, the rule of law, political freedom and human rights cannot be dismissed as unrelated to the discourse on terrorism.

The denial of basic rights and other prerequisites of a civilized life leads to situations which breed intolerance and extremism. We would be remiss if we did not analyse and address the factors which, if not directly responsible, facilitate the growth of and support for terrorism.

Terrorism is an international concern requiring global cooperation. Our vision of security should not, therefore, hinge solely on security within national boundaries, but should also embrace international security. To achieve that, the need to resolve longstanding international disputes cannot be overstated. Similarly, the need for a definition of terrorism that maintains a distinction between the right of people to self-determination and terrorism is even greater today than in the past. Such legal clarity would be extremely useful in providing a legal framework for our common struggle against terrorism.

It would be a travesty of justice if we could not protect and uphold the principles of human rights in our fight against terrorism. We should therefore be sensitive to threats emanating not only from individuals and non-State actors but also from States.

International security would be reinforced by promoting mutual tolerance, cultural diversity and inter-religious harmony. As these elements are essential and indispensable constituents for peace and security, the Security Council should play a leading role to ensure that they are protected and promoted.

Mr. Pleuger (Germany): Germany remains fully committed to the fight against terrorism within the broadest possible international coalition.

We fully subscribe to the statement to be made later by the presidency of the European Union, and I will therefore limit my intervention to three specific points.

First of all, I would like to thank Ambassador Arias for the able way in which he has maintained and improved, in his four initial months as Chairman, the continuity and momentum of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's efforts. We support the Committee's new work programme in all its aspects. We especially welcome its ever-growing emphasis on technical assistance, and that leads to my second point.

Germany maintains technical assistance programmes with more than 30 countries worldwide, primarily in the fields of the police, customs, law enforcement and financial law and practice. We are thus responding to the needs of many developing countries, as has been reiterated in today's discussion by our colleagues from Guinea, Angola and China. Together with our partners in these projects, we strive to strengthen the rule of law through efficient judicial

and law-enforcement structures. Our common fight must respect national and international law, human rights and the Charter of the United Nations. In our view, the rule of law must always prevail.

My third point is that we want to draw attention to the plight of the world's least developed countries. Some days ago, the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries stated that 11 per cent of the world's population live on less than \$1 a day. It is obvious that this extreme poverty makes them vulnerable to exploitation by terrorist activists. This is one of the reasons why the fight against poverty, social injustice and other breeding grounds of terrorism must remain high on the international agenda.

In conclusion, let me assure you, Mr. President, that Germany is determined to remain an active and reliable partner in the international coalition against terrorism, within the framework of the Charter and of international law.

Mr. Negroponte (United States of America): We would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Mr. President, as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), upon the completion of your first three months in the leadership of the Committee. We believe that the transition from the previous chairmanship has been seamless and that through your vigorous and committed leadership and creativity the work of the CTC has continued to progress. Of course, we would also like to thank the Spanish Mission and the members of your dedicated team who have been supporting you in this effort, as well as CTC experts and members of the Secretariat. They deserve our thanks for their ongoing contributions to the CTC's success.

As we endorse the work programme for the next 90 days, it is worth recalling some of the accomplishments since the CTC was established more than 20 months ago. They include assembling a substantial body of relevant information about worldwide counter-terrorism capacity; maintaining an open-ended and increasingly focused dialogue with Member States about the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001); determining which countries need what counter-terrorism assistance, and helping to match such countries with donors; and acting as coordinator among other international organizations in the field of counter-

terrorism, thereby working to raise the capacity of all Member States in this area.

Perhaps one of the Committee's most important contributions has been to ensure that the issue of counter-terrorism remains high on the Council's agenda. Given the number of important international peace and security issues before the Council, there is a risk that the Council's focus on combating terrorism will not be sufficiently intense. Through its steady work and quarterly briefings to the Council, the Committee has ensured that the Council continues to lead in the worldwide effort to build counter-terrorism capability. However, the Committee has a lot of work ahead of it. For example, while 35 States have become parties to all 12 international conventions and protocols since the Committee began its work — a very important achievement — over 150 more still need to do so. Although a number of States have taken strides towards the implementation of different aspects of resolution 1373 (2001), many still do not have adequate legislation in place to combat terrorism — whether that concerns the regulation of the banking sector, charities, or the monitoring of borders.

In addition, although all States have submitted a report to the CTC, some of those reports contain little evidence of efforts to implement the resolution, and some States are late in submitting follow-up reports. As long as a few States are not acting quickly enough to raise their capacity to combat terrorism, we all remain vulnerable. The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and those that have taken place since then highlight this fact.

The implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), however, ultimately requires more than submitting reports to the CTC, adopting laws and regulations and putting in place the proper structures to fight terrorism. Implementation of the resolution requires that States apply those laws and regulations and use those structures against all who are suspected of committing terrorist acts, including acts of indiscriminate violence against civilians, regardless of motive or cause. It requires that States cooperate with other States in the apprehension, investigation and prosecution of all suspected terrorists. Those States that do not do all they can to combat terrorism put all States at risk, as the international community's capacity to fight terrorism is only as strong as its weakest link.

In short, while the CTC has made important contributions to the fight against terrorism, it still has a lot of work to do in three core areas: reviewing and assessing States' written submissions, facilitating and coordinating counter-terrorism assistance and expanding cooperation with more than 60 international, regional and subregional organizations. In addition to that work, we believe that the Committee, including through its experts, should soon begin to visit capitals that may benefit from a discussion of the matters that need to be tackled to further the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and of the assistance that might be available.

Given the important work that remains to be done, it is essential that the CTC continue to receive the support of, and cooperation from, Member States and the broader international community it has received so far. In addition, given the CTC's various tasks, it is time to start thinking about how the CTC can best accomplish them. The CTC plays a leading role in building the capacity of all States to fight terrorism. We should seek to ensure that the Committee has what it needs to be as effective as possible.

Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation is grateful to you, Mr. President, for the work done since your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). We would like to associate ourselves with the comments made by the members of the Security Council — and in particular with those made by the Ambassador of the United States, who preceded me — in commending the work carried out by the Chairman, his team and the support staff of the Secretariat.

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made by the Ambassador of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group. However, I would like to underscore a few points of particular importance to Mexico in the common fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to make some remarks regarding the work of the Committee in the context of the United Nations.

In the global campaign against terrorism we have had to recognize that terrorism is not an isolated phenomenon. Rather, terrorism is planned and carried out against the backdrop of social conditions, historical conflicts and — in the current situation in particular — other activities of organized crime, including the proliferation of, and easy access to, small arms and

light weapons. It is for that reason that we believe that, to be effective, our fight against terrorism must be coordinated and comprehensive, both in this and in every other forum. It must also address every relevant aspect and interrelationship of terrorism.

My delegation has supported having the United Nations — and especially the CTC and multilateral bodies — take full responsibility for adhering to human rights, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations in carrying out their work. The Committee has taken important steps in that regard by including, without discrimination, a statement in its letters to every State indicating that any measure to combat terrorism must be in line with international humanitarian law, human rights and the specific rights and needs of refugees. In the same vein, the meeting between the CTC and the Vice-Chairman of the Human Rights Committee has been very useful in increasing awareness and exploring possible areas of future action. The Security Council must continue to address this particular aspect. It must also continue to promote the necessary measures to avoid any arbitrary action that could heighten the already terrible impact of terrorism or lead anyone to question the legitimacy of our efforts.

Another important matter that must be dealt with is the issue of access to weapons by terrorists and the opportunities they are provided by legal vacuums and the economic interests of underground producers and dealers. The Committee has begun to look into the transfer of weapons of mass destruction, which is a step Mexico energetically supports. The useful exchange held on 15 May with the organizations mentioned in the report by Ambassador Arias has made it possible for the CTC to begin to call upon States to provide information on legislative measures in force to prevent such types of weapons from falling into the wrong hands. We believe that this topic should be given the necessary priority, while respecting the priorities set out initially by the Committee in order to avoid creating complications in the pace of its work.

More broadly speaking, we must not forget the daily threat posed by illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. The recently held Biennial meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms not only demonstrated the growing linkage between those weapons and terrorism, it also pointed to the urgent need to solve both problems comprehensively. We

therefore welcome the Committee's decision to take on board Mexico's initiative to put questions to States in the near future concerning the measures they are adopting to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons in line with the United Nations Programme of Action.

We believe the progress made to strengthen alliances with the competent international, regional and subregional organizations to be positive. Such organizations have served to complement the Committee's work and are designed to further strengthen its efforts. Our delegation would like to be apprised of the outcome of the upcoming high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which is to be held on 29 and 30 July, at which international terrorism will be one of the main subjects.

We recognize the tremendous amount of work carried out by Ambassador Arias and Ambassador Muñoz of Chile to create closer links between the CTC and the Committee established under resolution 1267 (1999), concerning Al Qaeda, as well as to clarify existing distinctions between each Committee's mandates and activities. Thanks to that updating effort by both Chairmen, it is clear that the Committee established under resolution 1267 (1999) is a sanctions enforcement body, whereas the Committee established under resolution 1373 (2001) is geared towards cooperation and facilitating assistance. It is also clear that the Committee established under resolution 1267 (1999) is the sole body authorized to keep lists. My delegation fully agrees with the comments urging caution made by some members of the Council that, until a satisfactory solution is found in the context of the General Assembly to the matter of a generally accepted definition of terrorism, the Committee established under resolution 1373 (2001) must avoid becoming distracted from doing its important work by the drawing up of lists. To that end, we must intensify our efforts in the Sixth Committee to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism.

Finally, I would like to refer to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in facilitating assistance. We recognize the crucial role played by the experts in identifying the needs of Member States in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). We are convinced that in many cases, non-compliance is due to a lack of technical capacity to meet fully the Committee's requirements and to make the necessary

changes to national legislation and judicial structures. We hope that the provision of assistance will remain one of the key pillars of the Committee and that the Committee's machinery will be enhanced so that such assistance strengthens national structures, making them capable of preventing and eradicating terrorism.

Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): Like previous speakers, I would like to thank you, Sir, for convening this public meeting. It gives us an opportunity to assess our progress in the implacable fight against the threat that terrorist acts pose to international peace and security. Those acts, which indiscriminately strike individuals and institutions, plunge men, women and children, as well as States into a permanent state of fear.

In order to be effective, the fight against terrorism must be sustained over a long period of time. It must be founded on a clear, mobilizing strategy based on commitment, solidarity and cooperation among all members of the international community and all the peoples of the United Nations. It requires an ongoing flow of information and an organized exchange of experiences among the various bodies that deal with terrorism. It is fortunate that resolution 1373 (2001), which is our obligatory road map on the issue, responds to those concerns.

My delegation pays tribute to you, Sir, for the skill, tact and determination with which since April 2003 you have chaired the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which is the principal instrument of resolution 1373 (2001). Relying on the three Subcommittees and on a team of experienced experts, you continue to carry out the principal tasks assigned to the Committee: to increase the since April 2003 since April 2003 capacity of Member States in their efforts to combat terrorism; to strengthen international cooperation; to update national legal frameworks to combat terrorism; to study the reports on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) that have been prepared by Member States and the relevant international organizations. We welcome the fact that, as of today, more than 385 reports have been evaluated.

What should we make of the progress of the Counter-Terrorism Committee since its inception? What should we say of its short but rich existence? There are three fundamental areas of action. First, the Counter-Terrorism Committee has enabled almost all members of the international community to become

better aware of the extent of the insidious and harmful threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security.

Secondly, the Committee has become a tool to encourage and to coordinate dynamic cooperation between States and international regional and subregional organizations. It has managed to establish an open and transparent dialogue with all actors in the international community that are involved in combating terrorism.

Thirdly, it has intensified contacts with international regional and subregional organizations through its periodic meetings. In that context, I welcome the upcoming meeting to be held in Washington on 7 October with international organizations under the auspices of the Organization of American States. Such meetings, which have opened up new prospects for the Committee's involvement, have especially underlined what needs to be done beforehand or simultaneously in order to establish or to build capacity for those actors — States and international organizations — that are involved in combating terrorism. We now understand the importance of cooperation and technical assistance, which Cameroon has been consistently calling for. In that context, we believe that the French delegation's proposal for the establishment of a special fund deserves particular attention and reflection.

In a few months, the Committee will have completed two years of existence. The progress made, of which we have just heard, is certainly cause for admiration, but given the challenges to be confronted, we also need to reflect. How do we adapt our Committee to the real contours of the broader fight against terrorism? How will the Committee ensure compliance with the major directives contained in resolution 1456 (2003)? How do we ensure the implementation of those recommendations that have resulted from the Committee's meetings with other international organizations? Finally, how do we create genuine synergy among Security Council committees whose activities overlap with those of the Counter-Terrorism Committee? The route taken through the contact between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) is worthy of pursuing. We welcome the statement of commitment to strengthening that cooperation made by my colleague, Ambassador

Muñoz of Chile, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established by resolution 1267 (1999).

The new programme of work for the next 90 days, which you, Sir, have just presented to the Council in your capacity as chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, will certainly allow us to complete actions under way by strengthening dialogue and cooperation among the various actors, as well as assistance for the countries that require it. That step is in our interest, and we give it our full support.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Cameroon's commitment to combating, alongside the other members of the international community, the threat to international peace and security posed by terrorist acts, but also by poverty, injustice and intolerance, which are often the root cause of those acts.

The various reports already submitted by my country are clear testimony of our resolve, which must be fortified by assistance in the area of capacity-building to combat terrorism. Only with this assistance — the result of unified cooperation — will Cameroon be able to mesh its efforts with those of the international community to vanquish the scourge of the current century.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In order to optimize the use of our time, I will not individually invite speakers to take seats at the table. When a speaker is taking the floor, the Conference Officer will seat the next speaker on the list at the table.

I now call on the representative of Italy.

Mr. Spatafora (Italy): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia; the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway declare that they align themselves with this statement.

The European Union unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism as criminal and remains deeply convinced that no terrorism is justifiable, irrespective of its motivations, objectives, forms or manifestation. The European Union, along with all its member States, is strongly committed to defeating this threat, so that

succeeding generations can live in a safer and more peaceful world.

The need to fight against terrorist attacks of all kinds gives us the opportunity strongly to reaffirm the importance we attach to those values which are the cornerstone of the European Union and of the vast majority of the international community: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, humanitarian law, and the rule of law.

We believe that efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism must be conducted in full respect for our common values. In its internal anti-terrorist legislation, the European Union has set high standards for the protection of human rights, which facilitate social consensus and rallying around the cause.

The European Union recognizes and supports the central role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism everywhere. In that regard, we wish to reaffirm the high priority attributed by the European Union to the signature and ratification by all member States of the 12 United Nations conventions against terrorism in all its forms. The EU members and the acceding countries are now parties to the vast majority of those conventions.

We are backing the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) with the same firmness and resolve. The Committee, since it was established under resolution 1373 (2001), has, through its continued and consistent work, provided the international community with a solid, valuable and shared basis to counteract terrorism.

Resolution 1456 (2003) stresses the need for closer cooperation between the CTC and regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism. As we stated in the EU report submitted at the meeting of the CTC with international, regional and subregional organizations that took place in New York on 6 March last, the European Union has introduced a wide range of legislative and political measures in all the areas covered by resolution 1373 (2001).

Mr. President, I should like also to commend your able leadership of the Committee and its highly focused and proactive approach, and to say that we strongly support you.

The European Union works in close coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations and forums supporting and participating in many of the counter-terrorism activities that are

carried out within these frameworks. The EU is actively collaborating with the United Nations and its main bodies operating in the field of fighting terrorism and, at the same time, maintains its close cooperation with the relevant United Nations specialized agencies.

Moreover, with the aim of giving substantive and effective support to third countries in implementing their commitments under resolution 1373 (2001) and other international obligations, the EU has established a strategy for providing those countries with additional and streamlined technical assistance projects. These have been specifically designed to help selected countries to fulfil their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001).

The fight against the financing of terrorism remains a top priority for the EU. We have increased our efforts and effectiveness in this field, focusing our attention on cutting financial flows and other forms of support for terrorist organizations. We are committed to strengthening internal procedures in order to prevent groups from obtaining or diverting funds that are directed towards charitable purposes.

Further work has been undertaken as regards the freezing of funds and economic resources in order to prevent terrorism funding. The legislation targeting Al Qaeda and the Taliban has been updated several times so as to bring it in line with the amendments decided by the competent Security Council sanctions Committee, as well as with the exceptions foreseen in resolution 1452 (2002).

The EU believes that special attention should be devoted to the possible links between terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. We have to be aware that terrorist organizations may exploit migration flows in order to penetrate borders and disseminate their members so as to implement their criminal plans. A specific Council decision has been adopted to address these problems by stressing the need for simultaneous investigation.

The EU also recognizes the role of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in strengthening the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism and to offer advice on the implementation of both the pertinent Security Council resolutions and the United Nations legal instruments against terrorism.

As is stated in the conclusions reached at the European Council in Thessalonica, the European Union is fully aware that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The acquisition of weapons of mass destruction or related materials by terrorists would represent an additional threat to the international system with potentially uncontrollable consequences.

The EU is committed to further elaborating, before the end of the year, a coherent strategy to address the threat of proliferation, and to continuing to develop and implement the EU action plan as a matter of priority. Our starting point will be a comprehensive and regularly updated threat analysis. Our approach will be guided by our commitment to uphold and implement multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements; our support for the multilateral institutions charged, respectively, with verifying and upholding compliance with those treaties; our commitment to strong national and internationally coordinated export controls; and, finally, our commitment to cooperate with the United States and other partners that share our objectives.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Italy for the kind words he addressed to me.

I now call on the representative of Japan.

Mr. Haraguchi (Japan): It has been observed repeatedly that, as technology advances and globalization continues, international terrorism becomes even more immense a threat to international peace and security, for the following reasons.

First, terrorism is an attempt to materialize terrorists' aims by creating terror and fear and is thus completely incompatible with the principal purpose of the United Nations, that is to say, the establishment of a fair and decent world based on the rule of law.

Secondly, terrorists not only threaten the world through terrorism itself but also jeopardize the attainment of a civilized order by engaging in and promoting the illicit trafficking of drugs and the export of arms for the purpose of acquiring funds and means.

Thirdly, as the notion of deterrence is basically ineffective in preventing terrorism, the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, once accomplished, will lead to the unimaginable horror of

the disaster caused by the use of such weapons. We must therefore resolutely take action against terrorism.

There has been a series of terrorist incidents recently in countries such as Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen. Much remains to be done, despite the tremendous efforts made so far by the international community. It is therefore now more important than ever for all members of the international community to show the political will to take forceful counter-terrorism measures and to have the capacity to implement them. As for the matter of political will, many countries have expressed their resolve with respect to this issue on numerous occasions, but those nations also need to give substance to their words by taking actions, such as becoming parties to all of the counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

Concerning capacity, it is becoming increasingly more important that assistance for capacity-building be extended to developing countries and Japan greatly appreciates the clearing-house function performed by the CTC in this regard. Information and knowledge accumulated through the assistance matrix and the exchange of letters between the CTC and Member States are very useful tools in promoting international counter-terrorism capacity-building and we welcome the current 90-day work programme of the CTC, expressing its intention to further strengthen such efforts.

Japan more than once has stressed that, in combating terrorism, it is essential, first, to deny terrorists the means to commit terrorist acts by preventing the financing of terrorism and denying access to false documents, such as passports, and to weapons; secondly, to deny terrorists safe haven and ensure that they are prosecuted or extradited for prosecution; and thirdly, to overcome vulnerability to terrorism by enhancing domestic security measures and crisis — and consequence-management capabilities. The importance of these measures was confirmed in the G8 action plan adopted on the occasion of the G8 Evian summit held in June. The G8 countries have established the Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) in order to assist the CTC pursuant to the action plan, and the Group has already embarked on its activities. Japan, as a member of the G8 and CTAG, continues to cooperate in the activities of the CTC.

Japan is also accelerating efforts at bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism. The Russian Federation-Japan Consultation on Counter-Terrorism, held on June 23 and 24 in Moscow; the Indonesia-Japan Joint Announcement on Fighting against International Terrorism, issued on June 24; and the Australia-Japan Joint Statement on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, released last week, are indicative of such cooperation and we remain committed to working towards capacity-building in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular through similar cooperative efforts.

Combating terrorism is a difficult task involving an invisible enemy, but "invisible" does not necessarily mean "invincible". The international community must continue to make an all-out effort to create a world order that will preclude all terrorist acts.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker on my list is the representative of Israel.

Mr. Gillerman (Israel): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July and to express our appreciation for the leadership of the Council by your predecessor.

Israel would also like to pay tribute to you for your stewardship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) since your assumption of the chairmanship this past April. The CTC, under your leadership, continues to assume a vanguard role in the global campaign against terrorism and in assisting and monitoring State implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

Israel knows, maybe better than any other country, that there can be no peace with terror, and it is our very commitment to peace that binds us to the war against terrorism. In light of our unique experience, Israel stands ready and willing to continue to share its knowledge and expertise and to collaborate in joint efforts aimed at coordinating and strengthening our collective response.

New security challenges have thrust counter-terrorism to the top of the international agenda and we are now at a critical stage in our actions to enhance international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism. The fundamental need to combat this menacing issue, as terrorists continue to pursue their

goal of creating world instability, has indeed become a task that unites us all.

On the streets of New York and Washington, D.C., on 11 September 2001, and on the streets of Mombassa, Kenya; Karachi, Pakistan; Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, we have witnessed how the winds of hatred and incitement can fan the flames of terrorism, igniting violence and inflicting scars of grief on the families of the victims. No part of the world is immune from the scourge of this global threat — this plague, cultivated by the support, inaction and complicity of regimes.

We need an international partnership — a common resolve and a common purpose in the face of a threat that renders all of us vulnerable. Every nation that seeks peace faces a common enemy today in global terror. We must make it known: When you deliberately attack civilians, you are at war with the entire international community. Anything less than total cooperation by all States in international efforts to counter terror is unacceptable. Zero tolerance for terror is the only moral option.

The weakest link in our fight against terrorism are those regimes which are able but unwilling to take the necessary actions to put an end to the terrorist activity on their own soil — the regimes that turn a blind eye to the continuation of arms trafficking, financing and recruitment to further their own agenda. Regimes cannot publicly endorse peace while privately condoning terror. We must hold States accountable for criminal acts committed by terrorists operating from their own territory.

Similarly, just as States cannot tolerate the practice of terror within their own borders, States cannot be expected to turn a blind eye when their citizens are attacked. States have not only the right, but also the duty to protect their citizens against the threat of terror. We have no greater responsibility.

Our renewed vigour in the wake of 11 September and strategic changes in the international landscape have created an opportunity to pursue peace, democratization and the complete elimination of terrorism. That opportunity must not be missed. In the Middle East, a part of the world where terrorism has had devastating effects, there is a real chance for marked improvements in the international security situation, but we must be rigorous and we must be uncompromising in our war to eliminate the terror weapon.

There can be no genuine ceasefire among organizations committed to the murder of innocents in the pursuit of a fundamentalist agenda. A promise to temporarily halt such brutal attacks is not a concession to be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations. Terrorism is always illegitimate and we cannot lend legitimacy to these repugnant tactics or give these organizations an opportunity to regroup under the protective cover of hollow words. Ceasefires are not and can never be a substitute for dismantling the terrorist infrastructure in accordance with international obligations.

But time is not abundant as we face this imminent threat. The prominent Jewish-American comedian Milton Berle once said, "A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours." We must not become such a committee. We must serve as a springboard for action. As we debate, innocent lives are at stake. Mr. President, Israel welcomes your efforts as Chairman to transition the CTC into an operative mode in order to better combat this threat, and we are prepared to expand our existing bilateral and multilateral activities to strengthen both political will and practical capabilities on the ground to that end.

Terrorism subsists in a webbed infrastructure of evil, and it is time that we untangled that encroaching web. The international community must step up its efforts to prevent terrorist attacks with an eye towards immediate stability and peace-building in the long term. In the short term, we must act to close formal and informal funding channels, put a stop to money-laundering and drugs, and prevent access to illegal weapons, as well as delegitimizing those regimes that provide safe havens for terrorists. It is untenable that certain countries should continue to enjoy the fruits of international legitimacy while they actively pursue policies designed to undermine peace and stability.

As we have stated before, we also believe that a greater effort should be made by the counter-terrorism community in combating the education infrastructure that breeds incitement to hatred and violence. We must ensure that information in the media and in educational, religious and political institutions is used to promote progress and tolerance, knowledge and understanding, and not as a tool to subvert them.

No baby is born wanting to be a suicide bomber. Terrorism is not instantaneous or accidental; it is nurtured over time. If the education of our future

generations is left in irresponsible hands, we may sow the seeds of destruction as we wage war against terrorism in other realms. If incitement is not eliminated, it will be impossible to move away from terror and violence to the path of dialogue and the building of a better future.

Disentangled from that web of hate, the terrorists themselves must be stopped and brought to justice. In the Talmud, Rav Muna said, "Where justice is done, truth is done and peace is made. Every place there is justice, there is peace." With the strong arm of the international community, the terrorists must be disarmed. And, with the unwavering strength of moral clarity, the terrorists and their supporters must be named and shamed. We will see no end to terror unless we go after the terrorists. If we only go after the terrorists and their supporters and do not address the structures and foundations of evil, then we will never achieve true peace and coexistence.

The challenge of combating terrorism is especially great because terrorists are cunning in their ability to develop innovative new techniques and to exploit technologies to achieve their aims. One such new threat should be of alarming concern to anyone who flies in a commercial airliner. The dire threat posed by man-portable air defence systems — also known as MANPADs — also requires intensive cooperation and coordination of the international counter-terrorism community. On 13 December 2002, Security Council resolution 1450 (2002) condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrorist bomb attack on Arkia Israeli Airlines in Kenya. Subsequent warnings of planned attacks involving shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles capable of destroying civilian aircraft at low altitudes underscore the necessity of States to take urgent action to curb the proliferation of those weapons and the access of terrorist groups to them. As the CTC reviews its work during the past three months and consolidates its agenda for the near future, Israel strongly suggests redoubling efforts to combat the threat of MANPADs — both strengthening countermeasures and reducing the danger of proliferation.

Our international security is similarly hinged on the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. That horrific nightmare is perhaps more imaginable today than it has ever been. Implementing initiatives to halt the illicit transfer and proliferation of these weapons and setting standards for

their import and export will provide safeguards to ensure that no weapon of any magnitude can be supplied to clients who in turn may transfer them to terrorists. On several occasions, Israel has expressed its growing concern that such transactions could generate an enormous humanitarian problem and could have an unspeakable impact upon all levels of society. For Israel, it is self-evident that the international fight against terrorism must begin at home: it can succeed only if every individual State makes a sincere commitment to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, MANPADs and other arms. That is vital to international security and vital to our future.

Terrorism not only destroys those who practice it, but ultimately ravages the innocents in society. Poverty does not breed terror; it is terror that breeds poverty and instability. But with the eradication of this threat, we can open the darkest corners of the world to the hope of a better future. Freed from the shackles of terrorism and dictatorial rule, any society can prosper and live in peace with its neighbours. It is our hope that, when the international community makes a determined commitment to end violence and hateful incitement and to fight terrorism wherever it breeds, we will be able to realize that dream.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker on my list is the representative of the Republic of Korea. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kim (Republic of Korea): Let me begin by expressing my congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency. Speaking before the Security Council for the first time since my official accreditation to the United Nations — it was just last Friday — I can assure you that my delegation will continue to extend its full and active support to the Council.

In the light of the progress that has been made in the field of counter-terrorism, my Government believes that resolution 1373 (2001) has garnered renewed significance as a legally binding and universally applicable framework. Given the global nature of terrorist threats, we value the crucial role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in ensuring the national counter-terrorism preparedness of each and every member of the international community. The CTC has demonstrated remarkable competence in

addressing potentially weak links in our united efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

I now turn to the CTC's latest quarterly work programme (S/2003/710). While fully supporting the programme of work, the Republic of Korea would like to share some of its observations.

First, we note that the CTC has now received national reports from all 191 Member States. That is a long overdue but certainly welcome development. Since the reports are highly diverse in their stages and in their focus, we believe that careful consideration should be given to country-specific realities. For its part, the Republic of Korea submitted its third report to the CTC last May.

Secondly, my Government commends the progress made in the legal and legislative aspects of international efforts to counter terrorism. The Republic of Korea is currently a party to 10 of the 12 terrorism-related international conventions and protocols. Having already signed the remaining two, we are expediting the process of enacting the necessary domestic legislation for early ratification, preferably before the end of this year.

Finally, my Government expressed its interest in the matter of assistance at the Security Council meeting on the CTC held in April. I am pleased to report to the Council that we have since begun to offer training programmes in airport and seaport security and customs services. We are also planning to provide training courses in the area of cyber-terrorism in the coming months.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Peru. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Doig (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Peru has the honour to speak on behalf of the countries members of the Rio Group: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country, Peru.

The Rio Group welcomes this open meeting of the Security Council on the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), and once again reiterates its complete repudiation of terrorism and its support for the work of the Committee.

Since the previous open meeting on this subject, which was held on 4 April, there have been two regional developments that the Group would like to emphasize, as they confirm the progress of our nations' commitment to combating terrorism.

The first was the declaration of the heads of State or Government of the Rio Group, made during its seventeenth annual Summit, held on 23 and 24 May in Cusco, Peru, in which they reaffirmed their strongest condemnation of terrorism, which is a threat to peace and security, to the effective enforcement of the rights of all individuals and to democratic stability. Similarly, they emphasized the need to continue to work to combat terrorism, particularly in relation to the global problem of drugs and related crimes, and underlined the fact that the fight against terrorism should be carried out with full respect for international law and human rights.

In that context, the heads of State or Government defined, in what has become known as the Cusco Consensus, the following action: the strengthening, pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) of cooperation among our authorities in the fight against terrorism and its relationship to illicit drugs, money laundering and illegal arms trafficking, while increasing information exchanges with a view to preventing terrorist acts and suppressing their financing.

The other development was the entry into force, on 10 July, of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. That multilateral instrument was adopted by the States members of the Organization of American States in June 2002. Its entry into force commits the nations that have already ratified it to preventing, combating and eradicating the financing of terrorism and to effectively cooperating among themselves to combat that scourge.

Those developments highlight the fact that the policies that the countries of the region have been developing for a number of years are ongoing and are being intensified, as the Security Council is aware. The steadfast support of our countries for the work of the CTC is the result of such policies. All of the States members of the Rio Group have sent their first two reports to the CTC. To date, some members have already delivered their third explanatory report at the request of the Committee, while others are preparing theirs.

These national reports contribute to the work of the Committee in its important endeavours to harmonize and implement anti-terrorism measures and to put in place practical mechanisms for international cooperation to combat such criminal activity. This work is sustained through the commitment of all the States Members of the United Nations, which is indispensable if the international community is to confront terrorist threats and related crimes with the required courage and strict respect for the rule of law. In this context, we support the effective application of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

The Rio Group also highlights the fact that, in the programme of work for its eighth work programme, the Committee should continue to work to identify the assistance and cooperation requirements of countries; develop a global information network against terrorism and modernize the electronic web site of the Committee; and promote universal participation in the 12 international conventions and protocols to combat terrorism. In that connection, the Rio Group expresses once again its interest in completing the strengthening of the international legal anti-terrorism framework, and we hope that a general convention against terrorism will soon become a reality. We hope for similar success with regard to the draft convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and the review of the International Atomic Energy Agency Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Finally, the Rio Group expresses its satisfaction with the fact that, as you pointed out, Mr. President, the next meeting of the Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations will be held in October at the headquarters of the Organization of American States, in accordance with the suggestion of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. We are confident that that meeting will facilitate the follow-up, deepening and expansion of the areas of cooperation between international and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Ukraine. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine): I would like at the outset to thank the delegation of Spain for organizing

today's debate and providing an opportunity for my Government to present its views on this subject, which is of particular importance to all of us. I would like to express our gratitude to you, Mr. President, in your capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), for a very informative briefing on the activities of the Committee and for sharing with us your plans for future work.

The issue of combating terrorism remains a top priority on the agenda of the international community and of this Organization. As the major threat to international peace and security requires sustained, long-term and global action, the Security Council continues to play the central role in facilitating cooperation between Governments to fight terrorism.

The Council has set up the necessary framework for a global response to international terrorism and the strengthening of the potential of the international anti-terrorism coalition. It is now important that the capacity of each nation's legislation and executive machinery be improved so as to achieve tangible results in fighting this scourge. Every Government has the responsibility of analysing anti-terrorism capabilities and identifying areas for improvement. Every State must ensure full and consistent implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions and international treaties.

The CTC has established a constructive dialogue with Member States in the sphere of developing their national legislation and combating terrorist financing. The delegation of Ukraine greatly appreciates the efforts of the Committee to achieve maximum efficiency, transparency and cooperation with all Member States, including through the communication by the Committee of regular information on its activities. In our view, it would also be worthwhile to consider the CTC's conducting, with the participation of its highly qualified experts, a meeting with Member States to discuss the difficulties or problems most often encountered in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), as reflected in the national reports submitted to the Committee.

Among the achievements of the Committee outlined by its Chairman, I would like to underline its endeavours to provide all possible assistance to the multinational antiterrorist coalition by strengthening the capacities of regional organizations and groups. The Council's meeting on 6 March with representatives

of such organizations demonstrated the great potential that exists in this sphere. We welcome the idea of holding yet another meeting this October at the headquarters of the Organization of American States. A regular exchange of opinions and information between representatives of organizations at different forums will definitely benefit the global anti-terrorist struggle.

Terrorists are using new and sophisticated means to commit their hideous acts. One can imagine the consequences if they were to get hold of weapons of mass destruction — whether nuclear, chemical or biological. Ukraine agrees with the several delegations that have mentioned that the problem of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related technologies requires special priority. I therefore welcome the efforts of the Committee to address this concern by holding a meeting on 15 May with the representatives of specialized agencies dealing with those specific issues.

In fact, we have to deprive terrorists of all the means necessary to carry out their activities. In that connection, I would like to bring another issue to the Council's attention, namely, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which has already been mentioned by the representative of Mexico. Much has been done on the global level to combat such illegal activity, which is directly linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism. At the same time, as is clearly shown in the report of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001),

"al-Qa'idah, the Taliban and their associated terrorist groups are still able to acquire adequate quantities of weapons and explosives where and when they need them." (S/2003/669, para. 89)

The international community should therefore be more active in preventing the transfer of those weapons to criminals and terrorists and to ensure that they are not diverted to illicit commerce.

Ukraine has consistently supported the concerted efforts by the United Nations to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. My country has established a comprehensive national system to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Most recently, in March, the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, adopted a law on combating terrorism.

As a party to all 12 anti-terrorist international instruments of universal character, Ukraine is also strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism at the regional level. In October 2002, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers approved an agreement on cooperation between the GUUAM Participating States — Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine — taking part in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and other dangerous types of crimes. Firm positions on the issues of combating terrorism and other challenges to international security were reiterated by the Participating States at the recent GUUAM summit, in July at Yalta, Ukraine.

Let me stress that winning the fight against terrorism will involve a long-term commitment. In that regard, I would like to pay tribute to you, Mr. President, as the Chairman of the CTC, as well as to the members of the Committee, for your tireless efforts and commendable achievements. The work of the CTC represents a great contribution to our common efforts.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Ukraine for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Let me take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the convening of this open meeting of the Security Council to review the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in the last three months. We would also like to pay tribute to Ambassador Inocencio Arias, who has demonstrated effective leadership in steering the CTC, as well as to thank the Vice-Chairmen, the members of the Committee and all the experts involved for their dedication and hard work.

We take note of the Committee's eighth ninety-day work programme, which will run from 1 July to 30 September 2003. It is our belief that it will continue to enhance the effectiveness of our counter-terrorism measures.

In that connection, ASEAN supports measures intended to enhance the counter-terrorism capability of States requesting aid. We also reiterate the importance

of cooperation and coordination among United Nations Member States in the area of capacity building vis-à-vis States needing assistance, including States in the South-East Asian region.

Allow me to provide an update on ASEAN's continuing efforts to combat international terrorism since April 2003.

ASEAN continues to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We emphasize the need to address the root causes of terrorism, and we reject any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality or ethnic group. That stance was reiterated during the ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh on 16 and 17 June 2003. During that meeting, ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction with current counter-terrorism measures and reviewed the intensified cooperation that exists between member States, which has facilitated the arrest of persons engaged in terrorist activities and helped to prevent the occurrence of terrorist acts. While renewing the regional resolve to pursue the purposes of the declaration on terrorism issued at the eighth ASEAN summit on 3 November 2002, the Foreign Ministers also affirmed their commitment to continue working with ASEAN law enforcement authorities to carry out the specific measures set out in the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, which was issued in November 2001, as well as in the work programme adopted by the special ASEAN ministerial meeting on terrorism held in May 2002.

Furthermore, within the context of more effectively combating global terrorism, ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed efforts towards, and renewed their determination to enhance, cooperation with the international community. They also welcomed the results of the International Conference on Anti-Terrorism and Tourism Recovery, which was held in Manila in November 2002; the Regional Conference on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, held in Bali in December 2002; and the Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime of the ASEAN Regional Forum, held in Karambunai, Malaysia, in March 2003.

Additionally, the issue of transnational crime was addressed on several occasions. The Foreign Ministers recognized the successful outcomes of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) as well as the first ever SOMTC+3 and

SOMTC+1 meetings with China, the European Union and the United States, which were held from 9 to 13 June in Hanoi. Also, the fifth meeting of the ASEAN law ministers, held in Bangkok in June 2002, underlined the importance of enhancing linkages with, and supporting, the ASEAN ministerial meeting on transnational crime in preventing and combating transnational crime. The next ASEAN ministerial meeting on transnational crime will be held in Bangkok from 10 to 14 January 2004.

Furthermore, ASEAN member States look forward to enhancing their capacity to fight terrorism and therefore underscore the importance of implementing the undertakings and commitments outlined in the ASEAN-United States joint declaration of 1 August 2002, the ASEAN-China joint declaration of 4 November 2002 and the ASEAN-European Union joint declaration issued on 28 January 2003.

In recognition of the necessity of developing further measures for effective crossborder cooperation against transnational organized crime and terrorism, a meeting of Attorneys General of interested regional countries was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, from 30 June to 2 July 2003, to discuss means of enhancing cooperation in dealing with such criminal matters.

In addition to the regional initiatives just mentioned, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) continues to play a key role in enhancing counter-terrorism among the ARF participants, as reflected in the discussions at the official level and in the series of counter-terrorism workshops conducted under its auspices.

In order to coordinate and to give greater focus to ARF counter-terrorism efforts, an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime was held for the first time in Karambunai, Malaysia, on 21 and 22 March 2003. The meeting adopted the statement on ARF cooperative counter-terrorist actions on border security, which outlines various concrete and cooperative measures to strengthen security at their borders. The statement was adopted by the tenth ARF ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh on 18 June 2003.

The ARF remains fully committed to strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation among ARF participants. Gratified by the outcome and conduct of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, the ARF agreed

that the Inter-Sessional Meeting should continue its work and welcomed the offer of the Philippines and Russia to co-host it in the next inter-sessional year.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur, which was officially launched on 1 July 2003. The centre's emphasis is on creating public awareness through conferences, seminars, sustained education programmes, training on terrorism and counter-terrorism measures, as well as the management of post-terrorism consequences, including those involving chemical, nuclear, and biological warfare.

In closing, ASEAN reiterates its support for the work of the CTC and the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). ASEAN welcomes the opportunity to participate in future CTC meetings in order to present updates on the progress made in our region in the fight against terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Uganda to make his statement.

Mr. Butagira (Uganda): Since I am taking the floor for the first time as the newly appointed Ugandan Ambassador to the United Nations, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I also congratulate you on your wise stewardship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

Who is a terrorist? In our view, a terrorist is someone who uses indiscriminate violence by not differentiating between armed forces and civilians, between combatants and non-combatants.

Terrorism in all its manifestations has become a threat to the well-being of mankind. It knows no boundaries. It is naïve to think that one is not immediately affected by acts of terrorism in another country because that country is far from one's own borders. There is spillover. Tourism is affected. The economy takes a nosedive. Jobs are lost. The energies that would be harnessed to advance science and technology for the benefit of humankind are instead diverted towards devising measures to fight terrorism.

All countries should therefore pool their efforts to fight the menace of terrorism. An array of techniques can be employed in this fight: education, for instance, can inform would-be terrorists that carrying out a suicide bombing will not take them to heaven. Good

deeds can take one to heaven, and in this regard, the religious leaders of the world have a positive role to play. But in some circumstances, it might be necessary to resort to force to deal with terrorists and their sponsors, be they individuals or countries.

In Uganda, we have experienced terrorism of a horrendous kind. A group of terrorists led by Joseph Kony has for a long time terrorized northern Uganda. Since 1986, a total of 25,000 children have been abducted. They have been maimed. Women and girls have been raped. Sometimes, human beings have been cooked and eaten. Just a few days ago, 45 children were drowned by these terrorists. More often than not, these terrorists have their bases and safe havens in neighbouring countries. Those countries must be made to realize that it does not pay to harbour terrorists. The international community should therefore hold them accountable. We call for international cooperation in eliminating this menace. We call on the Security Council in particular and the international community in general, to make available resources to dismantle those bases, wherever they are. Those fanatical terrorists have no political agenda to advance beyond primitive barbarity.

In the fight against terrorism, we should also look at the underlying causes. While poverty per se may not cause individuals to resort to terrorism, it may provide an environment in which terrorism flourishes. Hence, poverty eradication, as emphasized in the Millennium Development Goals, should feature prominently in the fight against terrorism. Good governance, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms should be the goals that countries pursue and implement so that there is no pretext for some people to resort to violence because they are denied those basic rights.

The threat posed by terrorist acts to international peace and security is real. Member States should work together to eliminate that threat. Uganda will continue to support the Security Council, especially the work of the CTC and the international community, in order to fight and defeat terrorism in whatever form or guise it may appear.

In Uganda, we are putting in place mechanisms to fight terrorism, and we need support, both technical and financial, to implement and consolidate those mechanisms.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Colombia to make his statement.

Mr. Giraldo (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Colombia fully endorses the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group. We also thank the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, Inocencio Arias, for the submission of his first report as chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council.

While we recognize the progress made in the programme of work of the CTC during its eighth programme of work, the Government of Colombia has decided to speak in this open debate of the Security Council because it considers that the Committee and the Council must engage in other initiatives related to this issue.

Some of those were raised before the Council on 6 May by the President of the Government of Spain, José Maria Aznar. We would like to highlight first of all the fact that all types of terrorism, in whatever form or manifestation they may appear, constitute a single phenomenon, and that all of them, whether domestic or international, must be rejected and fought to the same degree and with the same resolve. Things cannot be otherwise, for this phenomenon is a challenge to the democratic principles of respect for life and the fundamental freedoms of the human being, so deeply cherished by our peoples and by this Organization.

Furthermore, every type of terrorism can become a threat to international peace and security. Let us not forget that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand — an act of domestic terrorism carried out for internal policy reasons within the Austro-Hungarian Empire — was the spark that ignited the First World War.

Another initiative that deserves serious consideration is the possibility for the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council to draw up a general list of international terrorist organizations worldwide, similar to the one kept by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) for Al Qaeda and the Taliban. We do not believe that a formal definition of terrorism is a prerequisite to devise such a list; indeed, such a definition has not been achieved in more than 30 years.

Whoever carries out criminal acts for political purposes, intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, as stated in General Assembly resolution 49/60, is a terrorist, whatever his or her motivation. We must once and for all relieve the

topic of terrorism of its political connotations, so as to be able to combat it throughout the world for what it is: a serious crime against life and the freedom of individuals, and a grave threat to civilization.

Finally, although resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1456 (2003) enabled the Security Council to express its concern about the close linkage between terrorism, organized transnational crime, the use and trafficking of illicit drugs, money laundering and traffic of illegal weapons, the Council and the Committee must deepen their consideration of these linkages. This is essential if we bear in mind that the controls imposed by resolution 1373 (2001) on the financing of terrorist acts must be successful, for terrorists will increasingly have recourse to these types of crimes in order to fund their activities.

Acts of terrorism must be characterized not only by where they are committed or by their global or national scope, but also in terms of the origin of the phenomena behind them and that of the funds that are used. It has been proved that the international financial networks used by terrorists are similar to those that underpin trafficking in illegal drugs and illegal weapons. That is why Colombia stresses the urgent need to take a direct approach to combating terrorism and related crime on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility.

In reiterating our support for the work being carried out by the Council and its Counter-terrorism Committee in fighting this universal scourge, I should like to reiterate our appeal to the international community to cooperate with respect to the legislative and political activities required under resolution 1373 (2001) in order successfully to combat terrorism. In this field of international cooperation, the United Nations has the capacity, the experience and the moral authority to assist all regions of the world affected by the scourge of terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Nepal.

Mr. Sharma (Nepal): I wish at the outset to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this public meeting to discuss threats to international peace and security posed by terrorist acts.

This meeting could not be timelier. Today terrorism is the gravest threat to international peace and security. It has spared no country, rich or poor,

large or small. Most nations have suffered the consequences of this senseless scourge. Combating terrorism should be the top priority of the international community in its quest for peace.

Terror invites conflicts and brings swift decay to society. It breeds political uncertainty, disrupts economic progress, undermines human rights and freedoms, and spawns social discontent. Experience has taught us that terrorists in one country may force the entire region and the world into an ugly conflict by using other countries as the staging ground to advance their agenda of destruction. In this sense, terrorism frays the very fabric of our international society.

Nepal strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We have always been committed to combating terrorism. Our firsthand experience with this indiscriminate and ruthless crime has further reinforced our resolve. Consistent with this, Nepal has already promulgated a stringent and broad-based law that responds to our specific needs and to our international obligations. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being strengthened to prevent acts of terrorism and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

As terrorism has a global reach, sustained regional and global efforts will be critical to combat the toxin of terrorism. Nepal has been working with other countries in the South Asia region and in the wider world, sharing intelligence, tracking the movement of suspected terrorists, stifling their financial flows and frustrating their communications to the best of our limited capacity.

The United Nations provides a common platform for our shared endeavour to promote joint action and coordination in our fight against terrorism. The 12 international conventions and various relevant resolutions constitute that platform. Among them, Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) is one of the most powerful arrows in the quiver of the United Nations to combat terrorism.

Indeed, resolution 1373 (2001) — adopted in the wake of terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001 — marks a watershed in our collective endeavour to stamp out terrorism from the face of the

earth. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) established under that resolution has proved itself to be an effective instrument to advance our common goal.

Nepal expresses its appreciation to the CTC for its good work and for the positive approach it has embraced, and it pledges its continued support. Mr. President, we also applaud your effective leadership of the CTC.

Now that it has collected substantive information and identified the gaps, the CTC should pay more attention to ensuring financial, technical and legal assistance to the needy countries, so that infrastructure critical to attaining the goals of resolution 1373 (2001) could be put in place in those countries.

Counter-terrorism assistance, now available from different sources, needs to be consolidated and disbursed from one window in order to ensure easier access and greater impact. To make this happen, the Security Council should create an anti-terrorism fund, to be administered by one of the existing United Nations mechanisms. Meanwhile, the world community must speed up the process of finalizing the international convention against terrorism that has been under negotiation for the past several years.

Before closing, I must underline that the world community should address the root causes of terrorism, not just its symptoms, which, unfortunately, receive more attention and resources. Terrorists often use poverty as their breeding ground. The world community must deny them that ground by reducing poverty and by addressing structural anomalies in national and global economies. Only a reduction in abject poverty, accompanied by growth with equity, will help us put the genie of terrorism into the bottle.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Nepal for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-eighth year

Provisional

4793rd meeting

 Friday, 25 July 2003, 10 am
 New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Arias	(Spain)
<i>Members:</i>	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Bulgaria	Mr. Kamenov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	Chile	Mr. Muñoz
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Russian Federation	Mr. Smirnov
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.



The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Seydou Elimane Diarra, Prime Minister of the National Reconciliation Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

Mr. Seydou Elimane Diarra (Côte d'Ivoire) was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Seydou Elimane Diarra, Prime Minister of the National Reconciliation Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, at this meeting.

As this is the last time that Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock will participate in the Council's deliberations in his current capacity as Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, I wish to take this opportunity to express to him, on behalf of the members of the Council, our appreciation of him as a colleague and friend. We shall remember him for his clarity and eloquence in his presentations and for his readiness to search for compromise. His unfailing eagerness to assist Council members in finding consensus language has often helped the Council to reach agreement on difficult issues. Aside from his ability to articulate and to persuade, he has also provided effective leadership to two Security Council missions to West Africa. Upon his departure from New York, Sir Jeremy will take up another delicate task as the United Kingdom's Special Representative in Iraq. I am sure that he will make use of his abundant

professional expertise and his diplomatic skills to meet the challenges of that assignment. In bidding him a fond farewell, the other members of the Council and I wish him every success in his new endeavours.

I give the floor to Ambassador Greenstock.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): I thank you, Mr. President, for those words. I thank you for the expression in them of the Council's friendship with me over five years, and I thank all members for their part in that. You are all aware — because you are around this table — what a privilege it is to sit at it. The United Kingdom sits here more consistently than the majority, but it is our view that we have to earn that position of permanence on the Council. My delegation and I have tried to work with you to demonstrate that, in its search for results and improvements with regard to the world's peace and security, we are there to help you achieve those results, and I hope that I have played a small part in demonstrating that.

We in the Council — being only 15 among 191 — have to remember that we represent the whole of the United Nations. The other organs of this great body expect that of us, and sometimes we respond to that. But I believe that we can work in this body with greater responsiveness and transparency to serve the interest of all Members. I hope that, there again, I have tried to show that that is an important feature of our work, because I believe that we are still underestimating the degree to which we can all serve our national interests, without exception, around this table, in the long term, by investing in the collective potential more consistently on specific issues. As I move into other business — to which you, Mr. President, have referred — I shall try to remember that the strength of this body lies in its collective input into the international effort to bring peace and security more consistently to the world.

I thank you all for your friendship and cooperation over the years, and will remain in touch with you.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by his excellency Mr. Seydou Elimane Diarra, Prime Minister of the Government of National Reconciliation of Côte d'Ivoire, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Diarra (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to convey greetings from the

President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, of the Government of National Reconciliation and of the people of Côte d'Ivoire.

I should like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this Security Council meeting on Côte d'Ivoire. I should also like to commend and congratulate your predecessor, Ambassador Lavrov, for the work carried out during the Russian presidency of the Security Council in the month of June, in particular the Council's visit to Côte d'Ivoire during its mission to West Africa, which was led by Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock. The report (S/2003/688) on that subject and the conclusions and recommendations that it contains have been examined by the Ivorian authorities.

That visit and this meeting attest to the importance that the United Nations attaches to Côte d'Ivoire and its people at this difficult moment in their history. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his tireless support for the process of restoring peace in Côte d'Ivoire. I should also like to commend the commitment of his Special Representative, Mr. Albert Tevoedjre, Chairman of the Monitoring Committee for the Linas-Marcoussis-Kleber and Accra II Agreements, and the other members of the Committee, as well as France and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who are working to bring about a successful resolution of the Ivorian crisis.

The Council is well aware of all the details of the Ivorian crisis. Its most recent visit to Côte d'Ivoire provided an opportunity to consider once again how to resolve the crisis, and its report takes due account of this.

I should like, at the outset, to focus on what has been achieved since the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis-Kleber and Accra II Agreements, particularly since the formation of the Government of National Reconciliation. My Special Adviser for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme will then provide a briefing on that issue prepared by Côte d'Ivoire. Lastly, I will be available to Council members to answer any specific questions that they may wish to ask me.

What progress has been made in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement since it was signed? On 13 March, the Government of

National Reconciliation was instituted. This comprises all the signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis-Kleber and Accra II Agreements. All the ministers have been appointed and are working. On 3 May the integral ceasefire agreement between the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles was signed. On 24 May, the extension of the ceasefire westward to the border with Liberia was implemented. On 1 June, a buffer zone between the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles was defined. On 8 June the cantonment areas — eight for the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and nine for the Forces nouvelles — were designated.

Relations with neighbouring countries have been normalized. I should like to note in particular the visits of the Ministers for Trade and for Transport to Burkina Faso and Mali and of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso and the President of the Republic of Mali to Côte d'Ivoire. Safe transportation corridors between Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries have been opened. Those are some of the main achievements since the Government was established.

I should also like to point out that, from 30 June to 2 July 2003, Council members gave new impetus to the Linas-Marcoussis-Kleber and Accra II Agreements, and further progress has been made. A joint statement that war had ended was issued on 4 July by the Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles and, subsequently, the Council of Ministers adopted an amnesty bill. That bill has been submitted to the National Assembly and will be considered on 4 August at an extraordinary meeting and on 6 August in plenary meeting. The authority of the State has also been strengthened, in particular by restoring and maintaining order following the incidents that took place at the television centre on 27 June. Security has also been strengthened for all ministers and political figures through the establishment of an integrated operations centre, including the National Armed Forces, the Forces nouvelles, Operation Licorne and the ECOWAS forces.

Prior to my departure for New York, I was in contact with the President of the Republic and the political forces with a view to holding discussions to appoint ministers for defence and internal security. By agreement with the President of the Republic and various political forces, I will, upon my return to Abidjan, undertake initiatives to address this issue so

that the Government can be complete. To date, I can say that the Government is working normally and that the functions of the ministers for defence and security are being carried out.

Within the framework of resuming economic and social activities, last week I travelled to Belgium, where I met bilaterally with the Belgian authorities and, on a multilateral basis, with officials from the European Commission, in particular President Romano Prodi.

Upon my return from New York, I will devote the month of August to visiting the various regions of Côte d'Ivoire in order to reassure the people about developments in the process of the return to peace.

All of these activities will lead, in September, to the relaunching of the economy and, in particular, to contacts with the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector.

What kind of support are we expecting from the Security Council with a view to giving new momentum to the process for the restoration of peace? Nationally, we will undertake what I would call the extension of phase-3 security throughout Côte d'Ivoire. This will be followed by the transition from phase 3 to phase 2.

There will be a need to finance the ECOWAS Mission in Côte d'Ivoire; the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the redeployment of administration throughout the national territory. Financing will also be needed in the areas of health and education, particularly as the 2003-2004 school year begins.

My Government will also be making a request for support from the United Nations for the holding of fair, transparent and open elections.

There will, additionally, also be a need to relaunch the economy and increase humanitarian assistance, as well as to provide assistance in the training of young people and in the creation of jobs.

At the subregional level, there will be a need to settle the Liberian conflict, which will bring about stability throughout the entire subregion. Lastly, there will have to be a robust campaign against poverty in the subregion, which is the source of instability throughout Africa. In that connection, I believe we must focus on reducing poverty in order that we can

provide stability in both Côte d'Ivoire and the whole subregion.

With the President's permission, I would ask my special adviser to introduce the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme that has been worked out by Côte d'Ivoire with the support of the World Bank, the European Union and United Nations Development Programme.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Donwahi.

Mr. Donwahi (*Côte d'Ivoire*) (*spoke in French*): With the permission of the Security Council, I shall now present Côte d'Ivoire's national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. It is important to note that the programme was prepared with the participation and consensus of the Forces nouvelles de Côte d'Ivoire, the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) and the forces of Operation Licorne, as well as with the support of experts from the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with the sanction of Côte d'Ivoire.

The programme is based on measures put forth by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The measures consist of six elements, namely, amnesty, grouping, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and restructuring. It is also important to note that these measures have made it possible to develop activities with the participation of all forces, which will facilitate the implementation of the programme.

The national programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is being pursued on three fronts, with the goal being peace and stability. That will be achieved through the establishment of a Government of national reconciliation and by reunifying the army by restructuring it to make it a force devoted to republican values. The national DDR programme is therefore the key to restructuring Côte d'Ivoire.

The DDR process in Côte d'Ivoire will take place during four phases: grouping, disarmament, demobilization, cantonment and reintegration.

Those measures have enabled us to prepare a timetable. The first element of that schedule involves preconditions, which will be addressed during a two-

and-a-half-month period, that is, from the beginning of June to the middle of August. That will be followed by grouping, which will take place during a two-week period, from 13 August to early September. Disarmament will then start at the beginning of grouping and continue through the middle of September. That will be followed by demobilization, which will take place during a one-month period ending on 19 October. Cantonment will then take place during a two-week period, ending in the first week of November. Lastly, the most important component, which is reintegration, will take place during a period of 12 to 24 months.

The forces involved have reached consensus to define 17 conditions, which we have summarized in the document we have circulated among the members of the Council. They include the five following points.

First is the signing of a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, which took place on 3 May.

Secondly, there is the establishment of a buffer zone, which took place on 1 June. That zone, which can be seen on the map attached to the document we have circulated, runs east to west for about 40 kilometres. It includes the impartial forces of Operation Licorne and MINUCI. There are no weapons or, of course, belligerents, within the zone.

Thirdly, there was also a joint communiqué declaring the end of the war, which was signed by the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles de Côte d'Ivoire at a solemn ceremony at the presidential palace in the presence of the entire Government and the ambassadors accredited to Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the ceremony was broadcast live on national television.

Fourthly, an amnesty law that will enable us to begin the grouping programme will be presented to a parliamentary commission on 4 August, and to a plenary meeting of the National Assembly on 6 August.

Fifthly, the restructuring of the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire will be based on the law on military planning that has already been drafted and which will be strengthened in the light of the current situation.

Lastly, grouping will begin with the identification of cantonment areas, which started on 8 June. As members will see from the map before them, the

cantonment areas in the south include Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, San Pédro, Daloa, Guiglo, Bondoukou, Daoukro and Duékoué. The cantonment areas in the north include Bouaké, Man, Séguéla, Odiéné, Korhogo, Ferkessédougou, Bouna, Ouangolodougou and Vavoua.

Once the grouping begins on 20 August, the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire will return to their barracks and the grouping of former combatants at the designated sites in the northern area will be carried out. Once the grouping has begun, we shall proceed to the identification and the verification of the identities of combatants. In that context, it should be noted that, thanks to support from the United Nations Development Programme, forms have been prepared to identify and assess the skills of ex-combatants. Those forms were designed on a consensual basis with the participation of all existing forces and have therefore been accepted by them all.

After grouping, disarmament will begin. It has four principal elements. The first element is to sort arms and munitions, for weapons must be separated from munitions. The arms recovered will be sorted according to whether or not they are listed by the national army of Côte d'Ivoire. We will then proceed to destroy weapons. A symbolic arms destruction ceremony will take place at the end of the disarmament cycle. Finally, new legislation will be adopted on arms possession in order to prepare the second part of the disarmament process: the disarmament of the civilian population.

We need to combat the proliferation of small arms, and it is therefore important to disarm the civilian population. We will begin with an information and awareness campaign on the collection of weapons. That will be followed by voluntary arms collections, followed by incentives and, finally, coercion. At that time, we will need to renew or issue new weapons permits and punish violators.

The third stage is demobilization and cantonment. We must identify the cantonment areas, which will be different from the grouping areas because in the cantonment areas former combatants will be assembled without their military equipment. Once the cantonment of former combatants has been completed, we will proceed to identify the candidates for demobilization, according to jointly agreed criteria and using the prepared forms. The status of the demobilized combatants will be decided by decree for non-

commissioned officers and by legislative order for other combatants. Cantonment is the period before reintegration. It will enable us to compile the socio-economic data entered on the forms, to issue demobilization identity cards and to reorient those individuals towards civilian life, with all the necessary support.

The final and most important stage of the programme is reintegration. As we have already stated, it will extend over a period of 12 to 24 months. To that end, we need to make preliminary studies to define reintegration activities. Those activities will be supported by vocational training, appropriate organizational structures and an appropriate civic service, since we now have a new ministry of youth and civic service, which will enable the annual graduation of 19,000 persons who can then be reintegrated into economic life. Special projects will be prepared for vulnerable groups such as child soldiers. We will also prepare education and follow-up relating to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

That is a summary of the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Côte d'Ivoire.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor again to the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Diarra (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for your attention to this briefing. I will be available for any questions. I thank the Council for holding this meeting today.

Today, we are in the process of emerging from the crisis. The guns have fallen silent. We are now attempting to get the Côte d'Ivoire to work, to resume our activities from the past, working with all neighbouring countries in the subregion. You have seen, Sir, that we have stressed social reintegration in our briefing. It is an important programme. In our country, if we do not get children back to work, we would be leaving them to destabilizing forces, to all those who would try to use them to destabilize the country. Our programme is doing everything possible so that by 2005, when our mission ends, we will have carried out the maximum number of reintegrations among the youth population, while stressing the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

I wish to reaffirm that the goal of the Government of National Reconciliation is to bring about just, open and transparent elections in 2005.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): We are pleased to welcome among us Mr. Diarra, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. We thank him most warmly for his briefing, to which we listened with great interest. I am thoroughly convinced that Council members are well aware of the extent of his tasks and of the efforts he is making, which they appreciate.

Unquestionably, as the Prime Minister has stressed, new progress towards reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire has been registered since last May and the adoption of resolution 1479 (2003). I think it is useful to recall the key elements of that progress.

The first is the total ceasefire signed on 3 May by the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Forces nouvelles. The western part of the country has been pacified. Secondly, the cantonment sites for belligerents have been identified. It is important to recall that a declaration ending the war was adopted on 4 July. As was also indicated, a draft law on amnesty has been submitted by the Council of Ministers to the bureau of the National Assembly. The Prime Minister also noted that the normalization of relations between Côte d'Ivoire and its neighbours has begun. We also welcome the establishment of a climate of trust in Côte d'Ivoire, which is essential for the complete implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra Agreements.

However, as was also underlined, the process remains fragile. Much remains to be done for reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire to be a complete success. I am thinking in particular of the cantonment of forces and of the disarmament of the Forces nouvelles, which should follow the vote on the amnesty law. I believe it was very useful to have, thanks to the Prime Minister and his delegation, a presentation of this programme, which enables us to see all the work planned and its importance for the success of the process.

I should like also to welcome the involvement of President Kufuor and the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which are clear evidence of its political and operational capacity to help restore civil peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

While remaining very vigilant about the effective implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, the international community will continue to support the ECOWAS Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI). I believe that the donors conference held recently, on 18 July, in Paris gave some encouraging signs in this respect.

Let me add that, on the ground, ECOWAS and French troops are continuing their efforts in support of the peace process. In keeping with resolution 1464 (2003), France early next week will publish a report on the activities of Operation Licorne. The Council will also be renewing the six-month authorization it had granted to the peacekeeping forces. In that respect, my delegation will be submitting a brief technical draft resolution early next week.

Finally, as Council members are aware, we have prepared a draft presidential statement embodying these main points. I understand that the expert-level meetings that took place this week indicate that there is agreement on the draft. If that is the case, it could perhaps be adopted at the end of this meeting, if members agree.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): It is a great pleasure to see Prime Minister Diarra among us. I should like to thank him for the hospitality which the Government of Côte d'Ivoire showed the Security Council mission during our visit there at the end of last month, for the trouble he is taking to follow up that mission and the resolutions of the Council on Côte d'Ivoire, and for his briefing this morning.

It is also a great pleasure to see Special Representative Tevoedjre with us this morning. It is very valuable to have him on the ground during this crucial period of the development of a new stability and reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire. We need to continue to work closely with him as we take our own business forward on this important country.

I join with Ambassador De la Sablière in congratulating the Prime Minister on the progress his Government has made, including the presentation to the National Assembly of a comprehensive programme of work to implement the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. We warmly welcome the joint declaration of 4 July ending the hostilities on the ground, and we note with approval that the security situation on the ground in Côte d'Ivoire has improved. I think that the work that is being done on the implementation of the

Agreement owes a great deal to the personal input and dedicated response of the Prime Minister personally.

But as he has indicated to us, we all have to be aware that progress on some important issues identified by the mission has been mixed. There is a lot more still to do. We would like to see a very early date for the adoption by the National Assembly of the amnesty law. We would like to see, finally, the appointment of fully responsible ministers of defence and interior security. We would like to see also the further extension of Government services throughout the country.

We have had an important briefing on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme — and we also had a foretaste of the excellent dinner which the Prime Minister gave us in Abidjan. This is a good programme. In some ways it can form the elements of a model for the United Nations in taking forward a DDR programme, but it needs to be implemented, and those time lines need to be adhered to.

The United Kingdom will fully support the Prime Minister's efforts to make progress in this and in the other areas, and, as he will know from this meeting this morning, the Council will be following up assiduously to make sure that implementation proceeds.

The United Kingdom recognizes the importance of continuing international support to Côte d'Ivoire in this period. We have promised an additional 1 million pounds sterling to ECOMICI, and we strongly encourage other potential donors to do the same.

As the Prime Minister has underlined to us, the long-term target for Côte d'Ivoire remains successful elections in 2005. The holding of those elections is closely connected with the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, and it was very good to have the full understanding of President Gbagbo in Abidjan about that when we were there. Since meeting that deadline is going to require very careful preparation for the elections themselves, we would be very glad to have confirmation from the Prime Minister as to whether the Government will ask for United Nations and international assistance in that, because I think that that would be a very positive sign.

We are grateful to France for the draft of the presidential statement which I hope we can adopt later. It forms an important element of the Council's follow-up to our missions this summer to Africa.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish first of all to comment on Ambassador Greenstock's departure from the Council.

Ambassador Greenstock will be leaving us to take up his new responsibilities. He was involved in the drafting of resolution 1483 (2003) on Iraq — indeed the United Kingdom was a sponsor of that resolution. He therefore has an excellent understanding of that resolution; it can even be said that he is an expert on it. I am convinced, therefore, that in his new capacity he will work in the spirit of the Security Council. He has a very good understanding of the Council's attitude, position and even sentiments towards that resolution. I believe that he will do his best to implement resolution 1483 (2003); he was present when it was unanimously adopted. I am certain that he will make a further contribution to peace and reconstruction in Iraq.

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of my country and of my delegation and on my own behalf, to wish him every success in his new capacity.

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this important meeting. The peace process in Côte d'Ivoire is now at a crucial stage. It is therefore a very timely meeting, and it is necessary for the Council to listen to the briefing and to exchange views on this issue.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Diarra, for having come to New York from afar to brief us on recent events in that country. We welcome his presence here, and we thank him for his visit. We deeply appreciate the efforts made by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to implement the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, to bring about national reconciliation and to maintain national stability.

We welcome the joint declaration signed on 4 July between the Côte d'Ivoire national defence and security forces and Forces nouvelles. This declaration undoubtedly is of crucial importance to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. We have also noted that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has already presented the amnesty law to the National Assembly, and we hope it will be adopted very soon. We support the full implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

China has always closely followed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. It is our sincere hope that the parties

there will proceed from the fundamental interests of the country and the nation, bury the hatchet and strengthen cooperation in a spirit of mutual understanding. We hope they will sincerely implement the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the Accra Agreement so as to achieve national stability at an early date and to create a sound environment for the economic and social development of the country.

Peace and reconstruction in Côte d'Ivoire cannot be separated from the support and help of the international community. The Chinese delegation appreciates the peace efforts by the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and France in the country. We support the work of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and in accordance with the mandate of the Council.

China calls upon the international community, especially the donor countries, to continue to provide generous support to the people and Government of Côte d'Ivoire. We call upon the donor countries to provide ECOWAS with further support in order to facilitate its peacekeeping efforts there. We support the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS so as to further promote the peace and reconciliation process in the country. I sincerely hope that process of peace, reconciliation and development in Côte d'Ivoire will be smooth. I also hope that the people will move towards peace, stability and prosperity.

Countries in West Africa are closely interwoven and have influence with each other. We favour the proposal by the Council's West African mission that a regional approach be adopted to settle the conflicts there. We believe that the rampant activities of professional mercenaries, the proliferation of small arms and the illegal exploitation of natural resources lead to instability in West Africa. But it is a fact that poverty is a root cause of such problems. Therefore, the eradication of poverty, along with economic development, is the fundamental way out for achieving lasting peace in West Africa. The United Nations must carefully study this issue — how to help the West African countries eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Mr. Pleuger (Germany): First, Mr. President, I would like to join you and the Chinese Ambassador in

thanking Ambassador Greenstock for his cooperation in the Council and for his personal friendship. We will miss him when he is gone, and we wish him well in his new and very important job.

I wish to welcome His Excellency Prime Minister Diarra to the Security Council and to thank him for his readiness to personally inform the Council about the progress in inter-Ivoirian reconciliation process. I also wish to thank him for the warm hospitality he extended to the Security Council mission that visited Abidjan at the beginning of this month and for the substantial discussions the mission was able to have with him.

We recognize the important reconciliatory role that the Prime Minister has played to this point. We hope that the progress attained so far solidifies to the point of restoration of State unity, and that the process will gain momentum. We are cautiously optimistic, although some important open questions — such as the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme, the amnesty law and citizenship — still have to be resolved. In that context, we appreciate very much the briefing on the implementation of DDR this morning.

Together with our European partners, and as a member of the Security Council, Germany will continue to accompany and support the peace process. Only yesterday the Council discussed the follow-up to the mission to West Africa and endorsed its recommendations. The message this mission conveyed to all its interlocutors remains the same — the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement has to be implemented, and the Security Council therefore intends to keep the developments in Côte d'Ivoire under close review.

We thank the Prime Minister for the comprehensive briefing on the current situation. With his permission, I would like to follow up with a few questions. In his view, when will the nomination of the definitive Ministers of Defence and the Interior take place? Secondly, what effects does the 4 July joint declaration by the Forces armées nationales of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles have on the work of the Government, and is there now a prospect that through a joint military course of action the partition of the country will end soon? What will be the effects on the re-establishment of State and administrative structures in the part of the country controlled by the Mouvement patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI)? Are there concrete plans that have been accepted by the

MPCI for reconstruction in the north? My last question pertains to the amnesty law that the Prime Minister mentioned would be discussed by the Ivoirian parliament on 4 August. Could he tell us what are the chances that this law will be adopted quickly, and which acts will be granted amnesty and for which period?

I wish to thank the Prime Minister again for his important visit and for his commitment, under sometimes difficult circumstances, to move the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the reconciliation process forward. I can assure him he has our full support.

Lastly, I wish to support the draft presidential statement prepared by France.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset I must express my appreciation to my neighbour, Ambassador Greenstock. I wish to add my voice to the President's observations at the start of this meeting on his role in strengthening the Security Council. Let me stress to him that we shall miss his constructive role and deep experience.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Reconciliation Government in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Diarra. Let me express our appreciation to him for his personal efforts and those of his Government to attain peace in that friendly country. Let me also welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We fully appreciate his efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Security Council mission recently returned from Côte d'Ivoire. Our main objective was to promote the peace process there and to ensure respect by all parties of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. We shall support all steps by the Prime Minister to implement that Agreement.

We and Côte d'Ivoire, that friendly country, have recently witnessed much pain and suffering. We believe the time has come for the friendly people of Côte d'Ivoire to enjoy security and national reconciliation. We believe the peace process must move forward. In that context, we welcome the 4 July joint statement of the Forces nationales and the Forces nouvelles in Côte d'Ivoire declaring an end to hostilities, support for the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra Agreements and loyalty to President Gbagbo and to the

Government of National Reconciliation, headed by Prime Minister Diarra. The statement also expressed the resolve to implement the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme in the country. The Syrian delegation calls on all the parties to fully and expeditiously implement all provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements in order to ensure full participation and transparency in the country. We welcome the fact that Prime Minister Diarra stressed that very concept in his statement a short while ago.

My delegation appreciates the efforts being made by countries members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), by ECOWAS forces and by France on behalf of peace. We also call on donor countries and on international financial institutions to provide the material financial and logistical assistance needed to enable the ECOWAS forces to continue to carry out their mission of ensuring peace and security in the region.

My delegation reaffirms its support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and for all the specialized agencies and programmes working in the region. We support their efforts to assist Côte d'Ivoire in overcoming the exceptional circumstances that have befallen it in the past few months. My delegation also supports the draft presidential statement on Côte d'Ivoire now before the Security Council that the representative of France was kind enough to introduce.

Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire and his delegation a warm welcome to New York and to this Security Council meeting. We believe that his presence here reaffirms his Government's commitment to the tasks that the Council has been carrying out, most particularly the mission to West Africa — especially Côte d'Ivoire — that took place several weeks ago.

That mission, headed by Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, took place at a very important time for moving the peace process forward in Côte d'Ivoire. Thus it is no coincidence that it was led by Ambassador Greenstock, who is sitting with us for the last time in the Security Council. My delegation wishes to express to him our affection, our friendship and our appreciation for the work done here during the time when he represented his country. We shared a

substantial part of that time with Ambassador Greenstock, and we were able to observe not only his great diplomatic professionalism but also his great human qualities as our colleague in the Council, where we had many opportunities to agree and occasionally to disagree. In both situations, we found his human qualities to be an example by which to continue our friendship and affection in the future. We wish Ambassador Greenstock every success in his difficult and complex mission, and we assure him that the Council will be following his work in Iraq closely.

The efforts that we have been pursuing in West Africa have a special dimension in Côte d'Ivoire. We believe that peace in Côte d'Ivoire is closely linked to political development, to the creation of security conditions and to economic and social development in the whole region. Côte d'Ivoire has a strategic role in mobilizing resources for economic activity in the whole region, and therefore peace in Côte d'Ivoire also means peace and prosperity for West Africa.

That is why we salute the progress made in the political transition and in the prospects for the consolidation of national reconciliation. We believe that that calls for unequivocal commitments by all parties to the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements. In that connection, Mexico welcomes the 4 July joint statement of Côte d'Ivoire's armed forces and security forces and of the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles, through which the end of the war in that country was declared, allegiance to the President of the Republic and to the Government of National Reconciliation was reaffirmed, and all residents were urged to take the road of peace.

In that respect, my delegation joins the delegation of Germany in asking the Prime Minister what prospects exist to move forward the process of full reunification and the establishment of authority for reconciliation and transition throughout the country's territory. We reaffirm Mexico's support for the full implementation of the recommendations submitted by the Security Council mission to West Africa, particularly with regard to the holding of elections in 2005. We believe that the United Nations and the rest of the international community must lend their assistance to the electoral process, including with regard to the establishment of a trustworthy electoral register and the creation of an autonomous authority that gives transparency to the process with a view to creating conditions for a lasting peace in that country.

In that respect, we should like to ask the Prime Minister what progress, in his opinion, is taking place in his country in order to hold those elections as the culminating point in the peace process, from which we hope a new political structure will be consolidated, providing stability to Côte d'Ivoire.

Similarly, we call on the senior authorities of Côte d'Ivoire to arrive at a prompt solution with regard to the full composition of the Transitional Government that considers all of its components, in the terms set forth by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements and by subsequent agreements.

Another aspect that will be crucial in the coming months is that related to the adoption of all measures necessary for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme to move ahead — according to what has been presented to us this morning — and on schedule. Special attention should be devoted to disarming groups of youths in order to ensure security for the populations and to eliminate threats to the political solution that is supported by all the parties in Côte d'Ivoire.

The recurring problems of the excessive availability of small arms and light weapons and the use of mercenaries and of child soldiers are viewed by Security Council members as unacceptable, not only in the case of Côte d'Ivoire but throughout the region. Regrettably, that is a situation that prevails in other conflict regions in Africa, including in West Africa. Thus we believe that the Security Council and the rest of the international community must take robust steps to put an end to arms trafficking and to the practice of using mercenaries, and that they should do everything in their power to prevent minors from being recruited as combatants. That will be a guarantee of a future without violence.

We hope that presidential statements on Côte d'Ivoire and the statements made in the context of the Security Council missions to Central and Western Africa will be properly followed up.

Mercenaries and arms trafficking are critical problems for the region, and they are aggravated by the situation in Liberia. Unfortunately, the violence in Liberia has not subsided and there is no immediate relief in sight. Further fighting and attacks on the civilian population in the capital, Monrovia, have been reported today. In that regard, I would like to ask the Prime Minister how he believes the worsening conflict

in Liberia is affecting his country now and what impact it will have in the future. We know what efforts his country has made to try to prevent the conflict in Liberia from spilling over into Côte d'Ivoire. What is the current situation in that regard?

We are concerned about the humanitarian situation Côte d'Ivoire, which is still fragile, and has been aggravated by the arrival of refugees from Liberia. We appeal to the countries of the region and all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to guarantee security and unrestricted access to humanitarian organizations so that they can perform their functions for the benefit of vulnerable populations that are suffering under these unfortunately conditions of conflict.

We reiterate our belief that a key role is to be played by humanitarian organizations, specialized United Nations personnel and non-governmental organizations. We again underline the importance of providing them with protection and unrestricted access to areas where they need to attend to the civilian population.

Today's debate must go beyond statements. It is essential for the Government and other parties in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other actors involved, to move ahead with the fulfilment of their respective commitments and mandates. This is required for the consolidation of the peace process and for stability and security in the country and the subregion. This should become part of a collective effort to return to the path of economic and social development, for the benefit, in particular, of the least privileged.

I would like to conclude by stressing the importance of the Council's ensuring effective follow-up of its efforts, of the commitments set out in its resolutions and presidential statements and of the observations made during Council missions to various countries — in this case, Côte d'Ivoire. We believe that follow-up by the Security Council in the coming months of developments in Côte d'Ivoire will be critical in providing support to enable the authorities in that country to reach the internal consensus needed to fulfil the requirements of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the political timetable envisaged.

Once again, we reiterate the importance of the Security Council's keeping its attention focused on this matter, so that, through such follow-up, it can

contribute to the consolidation of the developments that are under way and avoid any pitfalls.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I would like to start by joining my colleagues who have already paid tribute to Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, who is, unfortunately, with us for the last time as he is due to leave. It is a symbolic coincidence that he should be here for the last time today, as we are discussing the Côte d'Ivoire mission, which he led. That was a very successful mission, and made a very significant contribution to our current discussions on that subject. We are looking at Côte d'Ivoire from a different perspective as a result of the success of the mission that he led. I wish Ambassador Greenstock great success in the new tasks that he will be tackling in a very sensitive area. His very significant contribution to the work of the Council when we discussed Iraq will stand him in good stead in his new mission. I hope that we will be seeing Ambassador Greenstock often, since he will be coming back from time to time — wearing a different hat, but still talking to the many friends that he has made here in the Council and elsewhere in the United Nations. I wish him good luck.

Turning to Côte d'Ivoire, I would like to welcome, and say that I am very honoured to see, Prime Minister Diarra, Foreign Minister Bamba Mamadou and the entire Ivorian delegation with us this morning. I would like to commend Prime Minister Diarra for the reconciliatory and leadership role that he has been playing in the process of national reconstruction in his country. His presence is also gratifying because it gives an opportunity for the Security Council to address the issue of Côte d'Ivoire once again, with him here to explain some of the points that the Council still needs to be clarified in order to advance and fully support the positive efforts that he has been making.

I would like also to say that I am pleased to see Special Representative Albert Tevoedjre. We were very pleased about the teamwork that he established with the Ivorian authorities. That teamwork is, I think, also a factor in the success that we are now experiencing in Côte d'Ivoire.

The great achievements made since the inauguration of the Government of National Reconciliation on 13 March 2003, thanks to the efforts of President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Diarra, are proof of the political will of the Ivorian

forces and the determination of the international community to address this crisis. It is our conviction that the same political will will prevail to address all pending issues, namely, the appointment of effective interior and defence ministers; the extension of Government services and State authority throughout the territory; the adoption of the amnesty law; and the implementation of the disarmament and reintegration programme.

We are pleased with the information and the assurances that have been given to the Council this morning by Prime Minister Diarra with regard to the steps that have been effectively taken in that respect. We will review this as we have reviewed the other elements.

As my delegation stated during one of the consultation meetings, the progress made in the field of political dialogue will only be sustainable if military aspects are properly addressed. In that connection, we welcome the joint declaration by the defence and security forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles, which was made 48 hours after the Security Council mission departed Côte d'Ivoire and following the assurances we received from President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Diarra when we were in the country. That step is really a very positive development. The parties should be encouraged to continue to work in the same constructive manner they have already demonstrated as they implement the declaration. Again, that is one specific example of what has been achieved.

As stated in the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, "Although Côte d'Ivoire remains an issue of serious concern for the subregion and the international community, the precise modalities of implementing the Agreement are largely a matter for internal Ivorian discussion". (S/2003/688, para. 35)

It is clear from that conclusion that, in order to reach all the goals related to the pending issues, the Ivorians should continue to play a key role, as indeed has been the case.

One very meaningful lesson can be drawn from the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire regarding the response of the international community, namely, that the continued efforts of the Economic Community of West African States, France, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community as a whole is producing the desired result due to the fact that the political will of the parties is increasingly evident. The

harmonious, concerted and timely response of the international community is a determining factor if we are to succeed in tackling crises of the dimension of the one in Côte d'Ivoire, as is the case in the entire subregion of West Africa.

The efforts of the international community will be incomplete unless they are followed by further action to support the post-conflict period. There is therefore a need for the international community to continue to respond to the appeal made at the donors conference held in Paris on 18 July, bearing in mind that a positive impact on the West African region is directly dependent on the recovery of Côte d'Ivoire.

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme that has been presented to the Security Council this morning by Prime Minister Diarra will make a positive contribution to peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. We therefore support it, and urge the Council to give it very positive consideration.

The prevailing situation in Liberia is a matter of concern, as it can have a negative effect on the sustainable peace we are seeing emerging in Côte d'Ivoire. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reiterate the urgent need for the Council to find a solution to that burning crisis as well.

France has presented us with a draft presidential statement that contains elements that I think will have our support. We would be very pleased to approve it later in the Council.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): As this is Ambassador Greenstock's last Security Council meeting in his capacity as the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, I would like, before I address the issue under consideration, to convey to Ambassador Greenstock my delegation's gratitude for his invaluable contribution to the success of our work. His constant presence, sense of moderation and many talents have had a special impact on our deliberations by helping us to work our way out of difficult situations on numerous occasions. In particular, I would like to commend the momentum he has brought to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. His example should be emulated.

This meeting on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire is a further welcome step towards supporting the peace process in that friendly country since the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. I would like to welcome

the presence here today of the important delegation from Côte d'Ivoire, which is headed by Prime Minister Seydou Elimane Diarra. I wish to extend to him our gratitude for the informative briefing he has just given us on the achievements that have been made, in particular since the establishment of the Government of National Reconciliation. Those achievements must be fully supported. I would also like to thank the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm reception they extended to the Security Council mission during its recent visit to West Africa. I would also like to welcome the presence here today of Mr. Albert Tevoedjre, Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

As a neighbouring country, Guinea is pleased to note the gradual return of normalcy in Côte d'Ivoire after many months of serious instability. That positive development was possible due to the political will of all parties, as well as the sustained support of the international community. Despite the complexity and sensitive nature of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, we are fortunate to have been able to count on the timely and positive involvement of France and the Economic Community of West African States in providing a successful solution to the crisis. Those efforts should be continued for the sake of the people of Côte d'Ivoire.

Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that the tasks still to be accomplished are both enormous and decisive, and that much sacrifice must still be made. There can be no doubt that the restoration of lasting peace in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as its economic recovery, depend on completing those tasks. In carrying out that historic mission, each actor will be judged according to his contribution.

Despite a number of differences on several key issues, there is reason for hope given the progress that has already been made. In that regard, I would like to mention the progress mentioned by Prime Minister Seydou Elimane Diarra, especially the joint declaration of 4 July announcing the end of the war made by the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles. I would also mention the adoption by the Council of Ministers of a draft amnesty law to be considered early next month at a special session of the National Assembly.

My delegation believes that meeting the challenges confronting the people of Côte d'Ivoire

involves all of us: the people of Côte d'Ivoire, the people of the subregion and us at the international level. We must acknowledge that achieving this joint mission is primarily up to the parties in Côte d'Ivoire themselves. Everyone must work towards peace and national reconciliation, the path towards which has now been charted. The international community has great expectations for the final restoration of normalcy and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, a country in which, regardless of background, every member of the civilian population will be reconciled for the sake of all.

Mr. Khalid (Pakistan): First, I would like to join others in conveying our warm sentiments of friendship and best wishes to Ambassador Greenstock. His contribution to the deliberations of the Security Council was no doubt valuable and will be long remembered. I am sure that his many outstanding qualities will be an asset in his new assignment. It is also my pleasure to join others in welcoming Mr. Seydou Diarra and his delegation to today's public meeting. Let me also thank the Spanish presidency for convening this meeting. It testifies to the continued and sustained attention that the Security Council gives to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The visit to the United Nations of Prime Minister Diarra comes in the wake of the recent mission of the Security Council to the West African subregion, among whose main destinations was Abidjan. Earlier, in April, the Security Council discussed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire in a public meeting, with the participation of a high-level ministerial delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Côte d'Ivoire has a clear road map to peace in the form of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The people of Côte d'Ivoire have courageously and wisely opted for that path. The success of the peace process hinges on the faithful implementation of that agreement. That is also the mandate of the Government of national reconciliation. We thank the Prime Minister for his briefing today, which outlined the significant progress made in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as some key areas in which work remains to be accomplished.

We support the Council's action. We encourage the authorities and all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to work towards full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. We hope that the people of Côte d'Ivoire will be able to achieve the desired objectives of peace

and stability in the spirit of national reconciliation. In that regard, we laud the efforts being made by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire has withstood the turmoil that accompanied the unfortunate developments that, one after the other, have struck the country since September last year. However, the crisis is not yet over. A lot of damage has been done in all spheres of national life: political, security, economic, social and human rights. Beyond national frontiers, the subregion as a whole has suffered the negative fallout of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Therefore, the need and urgency of remedying the situation is felt by all. Côte d'Ivoire is fortunate that in its hour of crisis, it has been the beneficiary of timely assistance and support at various levels: bilateral, regional and international. We appreciate the role played by France and ECOWAS in stabilizing the situation there. The United Nations is also actively engaged in the peace process through the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and the Special Representative, Mr. Tevoedjre, who is present here. His special efforts merit special mention.

Apart from the political process, the challenge of economic rehabilitation and reconstruction requires the continued support of the international community. Pakistan joins the appeal to the donor community for adequate contributions in that regard.

One central conclusion that emerges from the consideration of conflict situations in Africa and elsewhere is the need for parallel progress on several interrelated tracks: credible security, developing consensus solutions, humanitarian relief for suffering people, provisional justice and economic revival, including through adequate economic assistance. Addressing those complex issues should be the responsibility not only of the Security Council but of all organs of the United Nations — perhaps through the mechanism of composite committees, which our delegation has suggested on previous occasions.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, I wish to join in the expressions of farewell to Ambassador Greenstock through his alternate representative present here. We wish Ambassador Greenstock the best of luck in his tasks. We are certain that we will have the pleasure to witness his kindness and professionalism in the tasks that he will perform in Iraq, which is an issue of concern to the Council.

Secondly, I welcome the presence here of Prime Minister Diarra because we are fully aware of the importance of his role and of the efforts that he has made to safeguard the road to peace, which has been constructed with patience and tenacity in Côte d'Ivoire, overcoming the numerous obstacles encountered so far.

Despite that progress, much remains to be done. We will need to face resolutely the obstacles and dangers, among which is regional instability. I agree with the various speakers preceding me who pointed to the situation in Liberia as a special concern of the Council that could have negative repercussions for the stability of Côte d'Ivoire.

We reiterate our full support for strict compliance with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the Accra II Agreement concerning the holding of free and open elections by 2005. We agree that the necessary steps must be taken to avoid a deterioration of the current peaceful situation, in particular — as the Council heard this morning — the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which must be carried out without delay. We welcome the fact that the considered and planned steps are being taken.

A subject that has always been of special importance to my country is the need to deal with impunity for crimes against human rights. No national reconciliation process can neglect that vital element. Any process of national reconstruction and reconciliation that omits that matter is, in short, a weak reconciliation process. We therefore hope that those guilty of crimes against human rights will be brought to justice — with a dose of realism but also with a determination to see justice done. In particular, we are concerned about the rights of children and the forced recruitment of children as soldiers. Here, efforts need to be made by all sectors.

Due to all the reasons I have mentioned, we support the draft presidential statement, and we sincerely wish the Prime Minister and his Government every success in the tasks remaining to ensure stability and peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Smirnov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, our delegation would like to join in the warm words and wishes for the respected Ambassador Greenstock.

We are grateful to the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Diarra, for his briefing on the

development of the situation in the country. We support him in his efforts to advance the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. We are encouraged by the considerable progress made in the settlement there in the context of the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, thanks to the efforts of the President and of Mr. Diarra, who heads the New Government of National Reconciliation. We note in particular the signing on 4 July by the defence and security forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles of the declaration formally ending the hostilities.

Much remains to be done, however, for the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. At this time, the most pressing problems facing the country are the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme; the extension of Government authority to areas still under the control of the Forces nouvelles; the appointment of the ministers of defence and national security; and the finalization of procedures to adopt the amnesty law and measures to promote economic recovery.

We deem it important for all political forces in Côte d'Ivoire fully and promptly to implement all provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and other accords in order to proceed smoothly and methodically towards the establishment of conditions of stability for the 2005 elections.

It is important also for all players in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire to make every effort to ensure that human rights are safeguarded.

We note the considerable role of the mediation efforts of regional leaders in advancing the peace process. We commend the fruitful efforts of the Monitoring Committee, headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We fully support the activities of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and expect that all forces in the country will fully and comprehensively cooperate with it. Russian representatives and liaison officers are ready to take part in its work.

We also commend the peacekeeping efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries and of France and share the concerns expressed as to the logistical and financial difficulties encountered by the ECOWAS forces. We join the appeal to donor countries to continue to support those forces.

We are ready to support the draft presidential statement, as prepared on the initiative of the French delegation.

Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to join you, Madam President, and other speakers in thanking Ambassador Greenstock for everything he has done with us and among us. We thank him for his interest in, and commitment to, Africa, where he skillfully headed several Security Council missions. On a personal note, we will not soon forget his friendly assistance during Cameroon's presidency of the Security Council and during consultations on the question of Iraq in October 2002.

I should like to thank you, Madam, for having convened this open meeting on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, which enables us to assess the progress made towards achieving peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. The inclusion of this item in the agenda of your presidency attests once again to the ongoing interest of your country in the promotion of international peace and security, in Africa in particular.

Indeed, a Security Council mission to West Africa recently visited Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire received it in a manner befitting the body with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security — with much honour, but also, and most importantly, with a great deal of hope.

Today Côte d'Ivoire is returning the favour. Indeed, today the Security Council is meeting with all of Côte d'Ivoire through Mr. Seydou Diarra, consensus Prime Minister and head of the Government of National Reconciliation, who embodies all of the Ivorian social and political sensibilities and is a tangible manifestation of the historical compromise represented by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. He enjoys the full confidence of Laurent Gbagbo, President of Côte d'Ivoire.

My delegation in turn joins its voice to that of the President of the Security Council and of preceding speakers who have warmly welcomed the consensus Prime Minister, Mr. Seydou Diarra, and to thank and congratulate him for his important statement, which is both a stock-taking of what his Government has achieved and an indication of the actions that remain to be taken. His presence here attests to the degree to which the Ivorian people, who rightfully aspire to peace and seek to restore Côte d'Ivoire to its place in

the international arena, have confidence in the Security Council and hence in the United Nations.

The Security Council has spared no effort to see that his country regain its established reputation as a model of stability and an island of economic prosperity that was, until recently, the pride of many Africans.

Through the actions of the Security Council, the international community is standing with Côte d'Ivoire, determined and resolved to support it as it moves ever forward towards peace.

By adopting, on 4 February 2003, resolution 1464 (2003), the Security Council endorsed the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, which was approved by the Kleber conference of heads of State, and called upon all Ivorian political forces fully to comply with it.

Today's discussion is an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved since that time. Under the authority of the head of State, the Government of National Reconciliation, headed by the consensus Prime Minister with his well-known wisdom and brilliance, has, in an environment that does not give rise to optimism, made tremendous progress in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The important statement made by the Prime Minister is telling in this regard, as is the presentation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

The conclusion that can be drawn is the one stated by the Prime Minister himself at the end of his briefing — that the crisis is now in the process of ending.

The determination of all components of the Ivorian population has made it possible effectively to lay the foundation for a lasting peace whose elements are gradually and methodically being instituted, with the support of the international community. Cameroon commends this, particularly since, as the Council is aware, President Paul Biya, who personally took part in the Linas-Marcoussis conference of heads of State, is a moral guarantor in this process.

Today the military forces of both camps have declared the end of the war and have recognized the authority of the head of State and of the Government of National Reconciliation. In so doing they have committed themselves to supporting the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the Accra accords. This is an important step towards ending the crisis.

The Parliament will soon consider the amnesty bill, as submitted by the Government and firmly supported by the President of the Republic. The scope of this law is vast, for, as underscored in the governmental communiqué, it will provide for a general pardon that recommends that each citizen make a resolute choice to move beyond self-interest and to embrace mutual tolerance.

In that context, Cameroon has no doubt that the programme of the Government of National Reconciliation, supported before the parliament on 28 May, will be continued and that the elections of October 2005 will be elections of transparency — as the Prime Minister said — of reconciliation and of a restored nation. In that regard, restoring the State's authority by extending the administration throughout the territory is becoming a priority.

It is gratifying that the European Commission has approved an immediate recovery programme after the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The programme has as its objectives, *inter alia*, financing the extension of the administration and supporting the process of demobilizing combatants.

Côte d'Ivoire finds itself at a crucial time in its history. More than ever before, it needs to enjoy the committed and renewed support of the international community and of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council. In that context, the Council needs to send a strong message to the Ivorian people and leaders and to the entire West Africa subregion — a message clearly reiterating its approval of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, once again underscoring the paramount necessity of its full implementation and urging all Ivorians to refrain from any action that could undermine the momentum towards an emergence from the crisis.

Here, I must express our appreciation to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, for his trust in the Prime Minister and in his Government. We express our encouragement to the Ivorian people and to that country's vital forces, resolutely committed to and oriented towards reconciliation and national unity. We should like to reaffirm our support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Monitoring Committee for the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, Mr. Albert Tevoedjre. We pay tribute to

him for his actions and for his commitment to the advent of peace and harmony in Côte d'Ivoire.

In conclusion, I should like to indicate my delegation's support for the draft presidential statement prepared by the French delegation and submitted by Ambassador De La Sablière. That text contains certain elements and guidelines to be taken into account for the successful continuation of the implementation of the programme of the Government of National Reconciliation that was supported before the parliament on 28 May. Clearly, the continuation of that programme requires the stability of the Government and the stability of the Prime Minister — by consensus the architect of a return to peace — at the side of the President of the Republic. We are sure that the head of State will continue, with his usual wisdom, to ensure that his Prime Minister's action is, in the long run, in conformity with the spirit of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Furthermore, that important aspect could, in my delegation's view, be incorporated into the draft presidential statement, which would thus be enriched.

Mr. Rosenblatt (United States of America): We would like to join other members in welcoming Prime Minister Diarra to the Security Council today, and take this opportunity to express the support of the United States for his efforts in moving the reconciliation process forward in Côte d'Ivoire. We listened with interest to his presentation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme, an integral part of that process.

The United States fully supports the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis accords and the Prime Minister's efforts in that regard, and urges that he continue to look for ways to accelerate the implementation process. The latter would include the prompt appointment of permanent defence and interior ministers.

We applaud the efforts of the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire, working in conjunction with the military stabilization force of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Côte d'Ivoire and the French military unit in carrying out Operation Licorne, an effort to seal the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border. That operation has helped to hinder further munitions and arms from reaching the combatants in the deplorable civil strife in Liberia.

Lastly, we should like to thank the Prime Minister for his Government's cooperation with the United

Nations military liaison presence in Côte d'Ivoire and for welcoming the Security Council's mission to Abidjan. We also can support the draft presidential statement submitted by France.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now speak in my capacity as representative of Spain.

At the outset, I should like to thank the Prime Minister, Mr. Seydou Diarra, for his statement. I shall make a few brief comments.

We welcome the progress that has been made in the peace process, and we encourage the country's authorities to work resolutely — as they are doing — to address the challenges facing the consolidation of the peace. In that regard, during the recent Security Council mission to West Africa, we reaffirmed the importance of implementing the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement as the only way to move forward on the path of peace and reconciliation. Today, once again, we urge all the political forces to implement that Agreement and Accra II.

We believe, furthermore, that one of the principal challenges in the current stage is the extension of State authority throughout the country. During our first meeting with the President of the Republic, he indicated to us that he intended to begin sending public officials to the western part of the country in order to restore public services, now that security conditions permit it. We should like to know what progress has been made in that regard, and also how the Government of Côte d'Ivoire contemplates extending State authority to the northern part of the country.

We also believe it is important that, in the short term, the appointments of Government posts that are still pending be completed, as well as all high posts of the administration of the Government of Transition and National Reconciliation.

Finally, there are two other issues that my delegation considers relevant: the prompt implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme and, secondly, the parliamentary processing of the amnesty law, since that is an essential element for the return to democratic normalcy, always keeping in view the holding of presidential elections in 2005.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to Prime Minister Diarra to make any further comments or to respond to any of the questions addressed to him by Council members.

Mr. Diarra (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, and all other members of the Security Council who have spoken of my country.

I noted that there were 13 speakers; the problem of Côte d'Ivoire is clearly of concern to the international community. I would like to say that, as consensus Prime Minister, I was appointed by President Gbagbo following consultations with all of the political forces of Côte d'Ivoire. I am not a politician. I am a former ambassador who now, in his retirement, is thrust into the limelight. I am trying to bring together the people of Côte d'Ivoire and encourage them to work for development — in particular in combating poverty.

I am working with a view to ensuring good governance, the rule of law, human rights and the restoration of State authority. We need to move forward in that direction together, and everyone must respect the rules of the game that have been established.

Since my appointment as Prime Minister, it has been my concern to present a Government programme — the Marcoussis programme — that is also the programme of all the political forces of Côte d'Ivoire. That is what I am talking about — this is not the Prime Minister's programme; it is the programme of the political forces who signed the agreement. The parliament has taken due note of that programme, and we have set to work to apply that programme up to 2005, trying to identify the decrees, laws, bills and regulatory texts that will determine Government action week by week until 2005. Our entire programme is well organized chronologically, and the first bill will be before through the parliament on 6 August.

That draft law was debated in the Council of Ministers, and all the ministers from the various parties accepted it as it was. The President of the Republic has accepted it. There is now a separation of powers, and that bill will come to the parliament. We expect it to be adopted, because it will provide a platform for the peaceful coexistence that is now beginning. It would be no use starting off by leaving aside some of the people, who would then feel that they were excluded from the management of the country. I believe that, with the adoption of that bill, a new, decisive stage in the future of Côte d'Ivoire will undoubtedly begin.

Council members asked a number of questions. With regard to the appointment of the ministers for defence and for security, the Council is aware that, following the Accra II Agreement, a 15-member national security council was established, presided over by the President. I am a member, as are the political parties signatories to the Agreement. From the beginning, I did not want to be involved in the appointment of the ministers for defence and for security. I sought to deal with that issue by making two temporary appointments, and I am working with those individuals. I left the President and the political parties to continue their consultations. Last week, before leaving Abidjan to come to New York, the President, with whom I met, asked me to deal primarily with the appointment of those two individuals. I also met with several political figures who asked me to take various initiatives in that regard, and upon my return I will be making a number of proposals to the President and the national security council, which is empowered to make the appointments. I think that these two weeks of intensive consultations will help to take a number of initiatives. That is what I wanted to say to reassure the Council about the appointment of those two individuals.

I believe that much progress has been made with regard to the end of the division of the country into northern, southern and western areas. The regular defence forces, as well as the Forces nouvelles, have agreed that the war is over. We have already sent missions to the north and the west of Côte d'Ivoire. I can tell you now that the west has been completely pacified by the Operation Licorne forces and those of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). We can now say that there are no more weapons in those areas and that we can move about safely.

We are seeking above all to bring the population back to those areas to resume their normal activities. In the north of Côte d'Ivoire the situation is still normal. In general, the population stayed in place, although some people were displaced. But in the west, because of the proximity to Liberia, the people had to flee the carnage. That area has now been pacified. Upon my return in August, I propose to undertake a three-week programme of travel throughout those areas, with the various forces involved in Côte d'Ivoire, so as to reassure the population and enable them to return to work.

I truly believe that once we have begun the first important stage of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme — the regrouping — we will be able to say that Côte d'Ivoire has been pacified and made secure, and officials will be able to return to their tasks and duties in those northern and western areas. It should also be pointed out that last week, when I was in Brussels, the President met with the prefects and sub-prefects and asked them to return to their posts. However, everything has been destroyed. There are no more services for the prefects, and no buildings for the sub-prefects — at least in the west and north. The administrative structure will have to be completely rebuilt. That was the purpose of my meeting with the European Commission in Brussels, as well as with the Belgian authorities, which are providing financial support to help us to set up the administration. We have prefects who have been well trained; we have teachers; we have doctors. Everyone is in place; we need only the resources with which to get down to work. With regard to the prefects, we also need mobility. Before leaving Côte d'Ivoire, I placed an order for vehicles so as to enable those high-level people within the administration to carry out their tasks.

By the end of September, therefore, we will have succeeded in putting the prefectures in place, as well as the teachers and doctors, so that, by the beginning of the school year in October, children will be able to return to school and resume their studies. I believe that all of that has been well planned.

The beginning of the school year has been set for October in all parts of Côte d'Ivoire. We have obtained assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and a number of non-governmental organizations to help the children from conflict zones who were unable to take examinations to catch up so that they will not be penalized by a war for which they were not responsible.

That is what I wanted to say with regard to the appointments, the partition of the country and the regrouping and cantonment. The regrouping is important because I think that it enables us to bring about complete security throughout the territory. The soldiers will return to their quarters, the forces that were in the north will return to their regrouping areas. That will enable us to control all the thoroughfares and prevent armed attacks. Even when war is over, and

even in Government-controlled areas, a soldier wandering about can be dangerous. The imperatives of security therefore require us to regroup them in such a way as to promote peace so that people and goods can move from Côte d'Ivoire as far as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. This is being done at the moment through the economic corridor that has been put in place and that is functioning very well.

The Ambassador of Germany asked about my assessment of the situation in Liberia. We have a long border with Liberia. For years now it has been a turbulent area. We have succeeded thus far in keeping the problem under control and in preventing the war from spilling over into Côte d'Ivoire. Events, however, have been such that we have had to deal with fronts in the north and the west — a great deal for an army that was not ready to wage war.

Thanks to the forces of France, the Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles, we are today together exercising control over the western border. We are doing so while embracing humanitarian issues, that is to say, by welcoming those who are seeking refuge in Côte d'Ivoire. Again, I think we have attempted to attach importance to the humanitarian aspect. We have for years even welcomed many non-Ivorian adults to Ivorian schools, many of whom have been employed in Côte d'Ivoire or joined its public service. However, what we are saying is that we do not want people to cross the border with weapons. In that regard, I believe the Government has given orders to prevent anyone entering the country with weapons. I also believe that it was our duty to do so in order to reassure the people of Côte d'Ivoire.

We have to believe that the situation in Liberia will be resolved through the contacts that the Council has. That problem can only be resolved in the subregional context, and with the support of the international community. We in Côte d'Ivoire do not have the capacity to address it ourselves. ECOWAS countries, working with Ghana's President Kufuor, have certainly taken steps in that regard, but they too need financial and political support from the Security Council and States with interests in Liberia. We still believe that without that we will remain vulnerable to the situation in that country. We are making efforts. Much progress has been made. But that is not all there is to it. There must necessarily be involvement on the part of the international community, especially from

States with interests in Liberia. ECOWAS forces are ready to deploy, but logistical and financial problems remain. Everyone knows that this is a very expensive undertaking. I therefore call upon the international community and the Member States of the Organization to quickly bring the Liberian war, which is disrupting the entire subregion, to an end. That is what I wanted to say with respect to the overall situation.

Let me also say that the goal of the Government's programme is the holding of fair, transparent and open elections by 2005. We therefore make an additional appeal to take the necessary steps to ensure that the elections take place under normal conditions. We have in place in Côte d'Ivoire what we refer to as the national electoral commission, which is an independent body comprised of all political parties. That provides one guarantee. But we will also strengthen the role of the independent commission in order to avoid any sort of exclusion, so that once the elections are held we will be able to say that there is stability in the country, that there is a future for it and that everyone in Côte d'Ivoire is able to express himself.

I must also add that, like some other countries, Côte d'Ivoire is also a melting pot — a special country. Regardless of who wins the election, we must ensure that we involve the non-winning minorities. That too will ensure the country's stability. In the end, the people of Côte d'Ivoire — the body politic — has always wanted to take part in the running of the country. Democracy cannot prosper unless those who lose the election are included in the running of the country to some degree. I believe that the body politic should gradually be formed in that manner, so as to bring about unity, stability and inclusiveness. That is the most important thing: to avoid exclusion in our country.

That is what I wanted to say to the Council. Let me say how much my delegation appreciates this morning's meeting. It is very important to us that 13 out of the 15 members of the Council — I believe that number is correct — have spoken. I want in particular to thank the Security Council for having sent a mission to Côte d'Ivoire. I also want to thank everyone who has participated in settling the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. We wish to demonstrate to the international community that we will emerge from the crisis quickly and that we will return to, and improve upon, the level we had reached in the past. We have the ability, manpower and land to do so, including those who have chosen to live

with us. That too is our goal. Reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire will take place not only among Ivorians; it will also include all of our neighbours and the entire international community.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Prime Minister Diarra for his eloquent, realistic and hopeful words.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council reiterates the need for Ivorian political forces to implement fully and without delay all the provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as those of the agreement signed in Accra on 8 March 2003 ('Accra II'), with a view to open, free and transparent elections being held in 2005. The Council takes note with satisfaction of the formation of a government of national reconciliation and the progress made, particularly the identification of cantonment areas and the delegation of powers to the Prime Minister, and is looking forward to new progress in accordance with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The Council also welcomes the 'joint declaration by Côte d'Ivoire defence and security forces and the armed forces of the Forces Nouvelles' of 4 July 2003 (S/2003/704).

"The Security Council emphasizes, however, that much remains to be done to achieve the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. In this regard, the Council endorses the recommendations of its mission to West Africa (S/2003/668). The Council calls on Ivorian political forces to redouble their efforts in the following areas: voting for the amnesty bill submitted to the National Assembly by the Government, the complete implementation of a 'disarmament, demobilization and reintegration' programme, the extension of public services and the authority of the State to areas still under control of the Forces Nouvelles, the appointment of ministers for defence and interior security, the guarantee of equal security for all ministers, the dismantling of militias throughout the country and the termination of the activities of mercenaries and of the purchase of weapons.

"The Security Council renews its support and encouragement to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. It asks him to keep the Council closely informed of developments towards the full implementation of the above objectives. It is pleased that the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) is now operational and hopes it will soon be fully staffed, including in such crucial areas as the political and human rights components.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and France in contributing to a peaceful solution to the crisis. It welcomes in particular the satisfactory deployment of their peacekeeping forces in the western part of the country to support the implementation of the ceasefire reached on 3 May. The Council calls on Member States to continue to respond to the appeal made at the donors' conference in Paris on 18 July, attended by the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and to provide logistic and financial support to the ECOWAS Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) so that it can continue to fulfil its important mandate.

"The Security Council invites donor countries to contribute to the reconstruction of Côte d'Ivoire in compliance with the commitments undertaken at Kleber.

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the continued existence of regional factors of instability, particularly the use of mercenaries and child soldiers, and the spread of small arms and light weapons which prevent a lasting solution to the crisis in the region. The Council requests the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to the Council as soon as possible on ways to combat such subregional and cross-border problems, focusing in particular on better coordination of United Nations efforts.

"The Security Council is convinced that a lasting solution to the problems of the subregion also requires genuine cooperation among all States concerned, together with confidence-building measures and the personal commitment of heads of State in the subregion."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2003/11.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

Before concluding the meeting, I wish, on behalf of the Council, to express once again our thanks to Prime Minister Diarra for taking the time to brief the Council.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.





Security Council

Fifty-eighth year

Provisional

4794th meeting

Friday, 25 July 2003, 12.35 p.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Arias	(Spain)
<i>Members:</i>	Angola	Mr. Antonio
	Bulgaria	Mr. Kamenov
	Cameroon	Mr. Ndoumbe Eboule
	Chile	Mr. Diaz Broughton
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. Serman
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Mexico	Mrs. Arce de Jeannet
	Pakistan	Mr. Mahmood
	Russian Federation	Mr. Smirnov
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Rosenblatt

Agenda

Security Council mission

Report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa, 7 to 16 June 2003
(S/2003/653)

Report of the Security Council mission to West Africa from 26 June to 5 July
2003 (S/2003/688)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.



The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

**Report of the Security Council mission to
Central Africa, 7 to 16 June 2003 (S/2003/653)**

**Report of the Security Council mission to
West Africa from 26 June to 5 July 2003
(S/2003/688)**

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2003/653, which contains the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa, and document S/2003/688, which contains the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes with satisfaction the recommendations made in the reports of its mission to Central Africa from 7 to 16 June 2003 (S/2003/653) and its mission to West Africa from 26 June to 5 July 2003 (S/2003/688).

"The Security Council endorses the recommendations of these two missions that fall within its area of responsibility and wishes to see them implemented. It has already taken the relevant recommendations into account in preparing its resolution renewing and strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Where responsibility for implementation falls to others, the Council looks forward to working in partnership with them, including United Nations agencies and programmes; Governments in Central Africa and West Africa; regional and subregional organizations, notably

the Economic Community of West African States; donor countries; non-governmental organizations; and civil society. The Council invites them to keep it informed about their efforts at implementation, so that the Council can support them and take any further action necessary.

"The Security Council emphasises the importance of a subregional approach to issues such as small arms and light weapons, mercenaries, child soldiers and humanitarian access. It stresses that follow-up activity by the United Nations will require close cooperation and coordination throughout the United Nations system. Action in these areas should also involve the appropriate organizations, especially in West Africa.

"The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to follow up those recommendations that lie within his responsibility, and would be grateful for a report on progress by 30 November 2003.

"The Security Council recognizes that resources may be needed to implement its recommendations. Therefore it will continue to encourage donor countries in a position to do so to support such efforts, and to assist regional and subregional organizations in this respect.

"The Security Council intends to review progress in implementing the recommendations in December 2003."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2003/12.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.





Security Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2003

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 4795th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

**Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday,
25 July 2003, at 3 p.m.**

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 25 July 2003, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 4795th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Julian Harston, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division for Peacekeeping Operations.

"The members of the Council had a constructive exchange of views with representatives of participating troop-contributing countries."





Security Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2003

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 4796th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 25 July 2003, at 4 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 25 July 2003, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 4796th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Heidi Tagliavini, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia and Head of Mission.

"The members of the Council had a constructive exchange of views with representatives of participating troop-contributing countries."





Security Council

Fifty-eighth year

Provisional

4797th meeting

 Monday, 28 July 2003, 10 a.m.
 New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Arias	(Spain)
<i>Members:</i>	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Bulgaria	Mr. Raytchev
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong Ayafor
	Chile	Mr. Andereya
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Guinea	Mr. Cheick Ahmed Tidiane Camara
	Mexico	Mrs. Arce de Jeannet
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Second special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2003/566 and Corr.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Second special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2003/566/ and Corr.1)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ilekwa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2003/566 and Corr.1, containing the second special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Members have document S/2003/653, which contains the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa. Members also have before them document S/2003/757, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, France, Germany, Guinea, Mexico, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously. Resolution 1493 (2003).

I should now like to give the floor to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: I congratulate the Security Council on unanimously adopting the resolution and giving the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) the strong mandate it needs to fulfil its difficult mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The political and military leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have taken important steps in the past month to inaugurate a Transitional Government. This is now in place. But the road ahead over the next two to three years towards free and fair elections will be difficult.

I am grateful to the Council for its strong support, especially in relation to the situation in the northeastern part of the country. Through resolution 1493 (2003), in which it authorized the Interim Emergency Multinational Force, the Council has shown the timely and effective response by the international community can put an end to violence. That Interim Force has also served as an effective stopgap mechanism, giving MONUC and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations sufficient time to deploy an expanded military force in Bunia.

Through the resolution adopted today, the Security Council has placed MONUC, in coordination with United Nations agencies and donors, in a key role to help the Congolese achieve a sustainable peace leading up to a democratically elected Government. It will be necessary for the international community to provide the resources needed to implement this far-reaching resolution.

In the final analysis, however, there will be no substitute for the resolve of the Congolese leaders.

implement their commitment to peace. It is my sincere hope that they will continue to do so and thereby bring an end to the terrible suffering that has been endured by the Congolese people for too long.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for his support and for his statement.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.